go out, page 14 man, page 15

ruthlessan ihuman end ) Sunlit day

Friday September 27



With European weather



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FridayReview A

The Last Don: **Mario Puzo** scores another **Mafia** hit

Cover story



What's a nice girl like Claudia doing with **Abel Ferrara?** 

Screen, pages 8/9

# Crude, cruel, brutal

55 dead as West tries to halt mayhem

Derek Brown in Ramallah

T IS a ripping noise, like canvas tearing; a dull ripple of sound bouncing from hillsides and buildings and making the air vibrate with tiny shock-waves. It is the din of war, made by a heavy calibre ma-

Half a dozen times the gun spoke, its sound almost drowning the shricks of the women at the blood-spattered entrance to the hospital in Ramallah.

"It's a Cobra," said a knowledgeable former military cor-respondent. "They're firing from the helicopters now. I just heard it on the radio."

There were four helicopters in the air over the southern entrance to Ramslish vester-day morning. There were tanks on the ground too: grotesque Merkava battle-wagons, rumbling north from Jeon transporters.

which is supposed to have made peace. It is a crude, cruel imbalance of brute force on the one hand, and crazy, reckless, incompetence on the

The United States President Bill Clinton, with customary reluctance to attribute blame except to terrorists, Islam ists and other Arabs — urged both sides to and the violence. and said he deeply regretted the loss of life (at the latest count 44 Palestinians and 11

No Lites

Britain was among the countries which moved cautiously off the fence. A Foreign Office statement said that Israeli actions such as the opening of a tunnel near a revered mosque in Jerusa-lem's old city had "caused suspicion and disquiet"

Amid Arab outrage, the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, cut short his European visit flying home from Germany to ask the Palestinian Authority president, Yasser Arafat, for an urgent

The wily Palestine Libera- the nastiest show in town.



tion Organisation leader, who has in the recent past all but pleaded to be recognised by Mr Netanyahu, indicated he would be available, but perhaps not right away. And so

the war went on.
It was inevitable that after Wednesday's surge of blood and bravado, the battle lines would form on the Jerusalem road yesterday morning. The first tentative clashes were reported soon after dawn. By late morning the awful macho game had started in earnest, and the spectators were in place.
The sporting allusion is not

inappropriate. All that was lacking was a ticket seller, for

use - though not exclusively - of the Jewish settlers who live in the fortified ghettoes of

the West Bank. Yesterday morning, at the height of the shooting, you could drive round the carnage, and turn off the settler road into the north of Ramallah. There, on the edge of a supposedly autonomous Palestinian enclave, were only Israeli soldiers, squinting along their rifle barrels.

The town was on strike, or else it had taken the day off. Shops were shut, and the traffic sparse. A traffic policeman

The Jerusalem road being politely waved cars in the diction of the fighting.

pass Ramallah by the new road Israel has built for the other courteous cops apolo- street, and fear. But there other courteous cops apolo-getically stopped traffic. From

there, it was a 10-minute walk to the war. There were thousands on the street. A preponderance of youths, but also many women, old men leaning on gnarled sticks, and school

children in neatly pressed uniforms. Most strolled with apparent unconcern, or chatted, or grinned to the foreign press. They waved at the Palestinian forces in their beaten up pick-ups, and glanced incuri-ously at the ambulances

speeding by. And all the while

was also a sense almost of exultation. For once the Palestinians were standing firm, and hitting back with live ammunition.

Occasionally, a louder burst, or the echo of one, would send the crowd surging back up the road. But there seemed little awareness of danger, even when a police pick-up broadcast a warning.
"He is saying that we should move, because the bullets can easily reach here," said a helpful youth.

Every two minutes a battered ambulance wailed franPHQTOGRAPH: GREG MARINOVICH

tal on the hill. There, a small knot of cally, for their sons and brothers and husbands in side. There was no news for them, it seemed from the weary looking medics who appeared from time to time blood on their surgical gloves too on the stretcher propped against the wall, blood on the

turn to page 2, column 7 Police fighters, page 5 Netanyahu at bay, page 7

ground and on a discarded

### Israel pays price for 'inane trick'

#### Commentary

Martin Woollacott

HATEVER could be said for or against them in the past, Israeli leaders have been professionals, recognising realities and reactive to the The ties and reacting to them. The terrible consequences of having in power in Jerusalem a leader who is inept and inex-perienced as well as wrong headed can now be seen in the West Bank and Gaza.

This, as some have said, is a government without a driv-ing licence. In just four months, Binyamin Netanyahu has steered Israel, and perhaps the whole Middle Eastern peace process, into a devastating collision. The new troubles in the territories may have started with a religious provocation, but their underlying cause is undoubtedly Mr Netanyahu's determination to deny Palestinians the state which the previous Labour government had half promised, its discretion being understood by Palestinians as tactical rather tanyahu stamped on that hope, he made it almost inevitable that scenes like those in Gaza yesterday would

come to pass. Yet such is the quality of idement available in the Neleader himself was grandly travelling through Western a conjuring trick in which few believed before. None will now. Such is the government's grasp of public rela-Sharon, that veteran archi-tect of disasters, said he ex-peace.

pected to have 25,000 settlers on the Golan Heights soon, and to vastly extend settlements in the West Bank.

What the Netanyahu gov-ernment has done to the PLO. its only available partner in the territories, was ably ex-plained by a spokesman for Hamas. "See now how Pales-tinian leaders like Arafat are frustrated, disappointed. They didn't get anything. The settle-ments keep growing. Palestin-ians are forbidden from going to Jerusalem to pray in the Agas mosque ... they are made to live in allocated areas like in South Africa."

Mr Netanyahu took hope away from the Palestinians, and they, predictably, have taken credibility away from

him. Even this Israeli govern-ment must pause before the prospect now apparent and admit at least to miscalulation.

Mr Netanyahu needs, in truth, to re-examine his whole policy. Long before the election, Mr Netanyahu, an "expert" in terrorism from his American academic days. redefined Israeli policy in terms of countering terrorism. This is the new "wider war" in which he felt the con-flict with the Palestinians could be embedded. That was one-sided at best.

But the Likud leader also preached that security could be achieved without giving the Palestinians anything of substance and without paying tanyahu government, that the any kind of price in casualties or diplomatic isolation.

At least the old Likud posiments how his policy of peace without concessions was going to work, when this proof of its manity emerged. This is fully acquiesced. That had already eroded under previous Likud leaders. But it was Mr Netanyahu who came up with the politically disastrous idea tions that on the same day as that security could be had for these troubles began, Ariel nothing. It won him an election but it could lose the

## Birt 'caves in' over complaint on Anna Ford interview

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

BC INTERVIEWERS insisted last night that politicians would continue to face tough questioning in the run-up to the elec-tion after the BBC's directorgeneral, John Birt, criticised the Today presenter, Anna

In a letter to the Conservative Party, he conceded that Ms Ford's interview with the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in which she accused him of failing to elevate the political debate, was "unsatisfactory".

Labour said the BBC had caved in to the Conservative Party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, while some BBC journalists complained that Mr Birt was "dumping" on

But the BBC denied that the letter was an apology and ex-pressed disappointment that t had been leaked. The BBC, attacked as arrogant and biased by Labour last weekend, fears it is being made a political football in the heightened pre-election

Dr Mawhinney denounced the interview 10 days ago as openly hostile and accused Ms Ford of a disgraceful lapse into blatant editorialising. He contrasted it with the "kid glove" treatment the Labour leader, Tony Blair, received from James Naughtie later on the same

programme. Mr Birt said: "The editor of the programme has already made clear his view there were more interruptions than were appropriate, and, with hindsight, Anna Ford



agrees." Mr Birt accepted her explanation that the closing remark — "So you are not go-ing to elevate the debate?" —

was a question to which she expected Mr Clarke to res-pond. "In the context of a live interview down the line to a radio car, however, the question clearly misfired; no reply was forthcoming, and there is no doubt the end of the inter

view was unsatisfactory." He said Mr Naughtie's interview had tested Mr Blair, but added: "More thought should have been given to ensuring greater consistency of approach to two major political interviews in the same edition.

Mr Birt added: "I do not doubt the team's commitment to test all sides on political and policy issues rigorously and impartially; and, equally, over time I do not doubt they achieve it."

A senior BBC insider said:
"John is proud of Today and a
great admirer of the team."

The content of the letter, cellor Gordon Brown, seized regarded by Mr Birt as the on Mr Clarke's admission mildest of rebukes, was that Labour was no longer agreed with Roger Mosey, Today's editor.

One BBC presenter said: "One regrets the BBC does not stand up for interviewers. It is difficult enough without being dumped on by the director-general." But Today's John

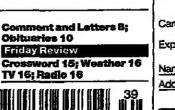
Humphrys rejected as absurd suggestions it meant the ground being cut from under interviewers' feet. "I have never been told to back off in my life and I don't expect to start now."

Mr Naughtie said: "Our listeners can be sure that Today interviews will continue to be done as they are being done." Central Office made a low level protest shortly after the interview, but the row escalated after the shadow chandangerous. Mr Clarke, known as a ro-

bust and uncomplaining interviewee, was said to have regarded the row as hilarious. Brian Wilson, Labour's campaign spoke "For some time the BBC have openly complained about undue pressure from politica parties. Now, faced with an attack from Brian Mawhin-ney, they have caved in." A Conservative Central Office spokeswoman said: "This letter shows significant

concessions by the director-general. We will continue to monitor the BBC's output ... We are not seeking special favours — just equal treatment."

Ford confrontations, page 5



uiti-purpose bag, subtly branded with the San international and the Observer logo, is made with a black beavy duty canvas and is designed to hold everything you would carry in your attaché case. Expanding by 60%, Expending by 60%, features include a strong zip revealing a roomy central secti

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nside

1. 10.00

News Eugene de Kock told the supreme court in Pretoria ne had evidence that a South African security agent killed Olof Palme.

Britain The EU has for the first time signalled its readiness to give Tony Blair more time to negotiate. changes to the Maastricht treaty.

British Telecom. moved towards a pan-European strategy with a £1.1 billion · · investment in a French venture.

involving some of its top runners.

Sport

The federation

in South Africa

running athletics

stands accused of

trying to rig races

Friday Review Crossword 15; Weather 1 TV 16; Radio 18

Signature
Country:

### Sketch

### A new view of the Auld Enemy



Peter Hetherington

N A bar somewhere around the conference fringes, someone this weekend will down another dram, survey the casualties slumped around the bar, draw deep breath, and hold forth about a nation exploited by a colonial neighbour. On hearing a southern accent, he might even volunteer: "No offence, pal — nothing personal. understand — but ye cannae trust the English."

It has been the same since. well. 1320 when a group of pat-riots signed the declaration of Arbroath and declared: "For as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we under any condition be brought under English rule."

The old nation had another 400 years to go before it was absorbed by England to become, eventually, little more than an outpost of North Britain. But Arbroath, governed, as it happens, by a nationalist council for some time, is still a defining moment for some patriots locked into the past.

History goes back a long way in the Scottish National Party, meeting this week for its annual conference in Inver ness. Bitterness over a 1707 Act of Union, a sell-out by a nobility on the make, still lingers. Late at night, laced with a glass or 10 of the brown stuff, every problem, real or imag-ined, is laid at the door of the English or, to be fair, some anonymous English establish ment. While much of the banter can be dismissed as good. clean fun — the mirror image of Jock-baiting in the south — SNP leader Alex Salmond thinks the hackneyed "blame the English" jibes should be consigned to history.

Salmond, a sober, sharpsuited economist, is out to portray the SNP as a mature polit ical force above such petty, nationalist ranting. This week he revealed that, "unlike some people in Scotland", he had

First night

Lyn Gardner

ICHAEL Cooney

proves he is a gold chip off the old block with

his first stab at farce. directed

with a nice eye for slapstick

by his father, veteran farceur

minutes and the interval dis-

pensed with entirely. Cash On Delivery would be a classic

evening in the English White-hall tradition, a style that

side postcard than to Feydeau

Even as it stands, with all its

imperfections, it has a number

of side-splitting moments and

a brilliantly sustained 10-min-

ute sequence before the inter-

Of course, it is mildly reac-

val that brings tears to the

towards gays, women and men who dress up in frocks.

but no more so than the aver-

the form demands an extraor-

dinarily high level of craft on the part of writer, director

and actors, and that in its own sly way, it can say as much about human nature as King

What is so good about Cooney's observation is the way he pins down a very particular lower-middle-class social mi-

lieu. The jests about outsize brassieres, support hosiery

and corsets date from almost any period in the last 50 years,

but the setting is very exact, the post-Thatcherite Nineties

where the culture of success

THE Government's "incompetent handling of the BSE crisis, which has resulted in an unnecessary

culling of healthy cattle and

has reduced farming to its knees", should be the subject

of a public inquiry. Bob Stevenson, the president of the

British Veterinary Associa-

tion, said last night.

Paul Brown

Vets demand BSE inquiry

age television sitcom. What those who sneer at this kind of theatre too easily forget is that

tionary in its attitudes

owes more to the saucy sea-

Ray.
If it were trimmed by 20

The day when it

all went wrong

about the English. And he ap-peared sick and tired of these unnamed Scots blaming the Auld Enemy for almost everything. Stop moaning, he pleaded. "Everything that's wrong with Scotland is the

responsibility of the Scots."
What he made of a leaflet from the SNP's youth wing. based on Irvine Welsh's cult novel. Trainspotting, is not clear. It quotes one of Welsh's heroin addicts dismissing the English as wankers, and con-tinues: "We can't even pick a decent culture to be colonised by." A Labour MP complained to the Commission for Racial Equality, claiming the leaflet was racist. The SNP countered by revealing that one of those behind it was English.

But, of course, in a mature political party — with four MPs, two MEPs and almost 30 per cent support in the latest opinion poll — there are greater matters of statehood to address, like how to run the economy after freedom (from England) is secured.

Yesterday party spokesmen, and women, were pa-raded before the media to explain why Scotland - rich in oil, water, whisky, wood and whingers (on Mr Salmond's admission) — could be self-sustaining. Already, they asserted, tax revenues meant it was a net contributor to the

Exchequer. The day started badly on BBC Radio Scotland for John Swinney, a nervous SNP Trea-sury spokesman, and seemed

to go rapidly downhill. "We're actually paying 10 per cent of UK revenue while we've got 8.8 per cent of the population," he maintained. 'That's a consequence of

the booming economy... north of the border." countered a robust interviewer. You can't have it both ways. Soon afterwards, presentng a booklet on The Economic

Case for Independence, Mr Swinney spoke of Scotland being the "21st richest nation in the world". Some bright spark asked where Britain, as a whole,

stood. There was a pause be-

fore the reply: "Er . . . 19th". Based on this revelation, it is reliably reported that the combative Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, is rushing out another leaflet in defence of his cherished union with England: "Vote SNP to be

and self-sufficiency has hit the

lieve in Eric Swan (Bradley

Walsh, giving an excellent

sweaty, highly athletic perfor

mance as a man whose world

who loses his white-collar job

collapses about him), an up-

wardly mobile East Ender,

brick wall of recession. You can all too easily be-



A light-hearted Gerry Adams at his book launch acknowledges a literary debt to P.G. Wodehouse Protection SEAN SMIT

### Smooth Adams steals agenda

#### Hostile press bemused as Sinn Fein leader pays tribute to Jeeves

#### Ewen MacAskill on a PR success

at the electricity board but is so afraid to tell his unsympathetic wife that he becomes embroiled in a series of imagi-ERRY Adams allowed himself a little smile yesterday. He had been native social security scams, which unluckily for him all asked about literary influ-ences. After listing a handful of Irish writers, from Liam O'Flaherty to Roddy Doyle, he begin to unravel on one terri-Amid the maybem that en-sues after the arrival of a DSS inspector, the upstairs lodger, threw in a surprise, the cre-

a psychiatrist, an undertaker, woman from the council, the upstairs lodger's fiancée. Uncle George (Brian Murphy, particularly nice), a corpse and Swan's wife, what is exposed is not Eric's culpability but his frailty, and what is celebrated is not his moral dishonesty but his quick-witted

It is a world where learning to duck and dive will stand you in good stead for a career as a barrow boy, a petty criminal, a trader in the City, or if necessary, all three.

Cooney turns the classic portrait of the DSS scrounger on its head. Swan is not an indolent layabout, he wants to get on. He sweats over his claims for disabled lumber-jacks, deaf piano tuners and their assorted dependants, from toddlers to bedridden

The lesson, as suits these morally ambivalent times, is mixed: crime may not pay in the long run, but if you canno beat the system you might at least be able to join it.

attack as leader of the country's normally uncomplaining

9,000 vets came on the open-ing day of the association's annual meeting in Chester. He said that an inquiry was

required to find out what had gone wrong over BSE, who

was responsible, and how such problems could be

avoided in the future. He was

also adamant that the killing

imals was an appalling waste.

ator of the Jeeves and Bertie Centre in Camden, north Lon-Wooster, epitomes of the English class system. don, for what should have been a relatively low-key

A bemused journalist asked why one of the key figures in the Irish republican move-ment had chosen P.G. Wode-house. Mr Adams said it was because he identified with the oppressed, even butlers. "I always treat butlers with

| Irish people" but he did say | This ensured that he spent | Mr Adams has been dealing | "like representatives of Sinn | the day being chased by the | with hostile questions for

Mr Adams is smooth, good at public relations, backed by a Sinn Fein machine that puts a lot of money and thought into presentation. Even the Unionist community acknowledges this, lamenting the extent to which Sinn Feln can dominate the news

On the opening day of the multi-party talks in June. Mr Adams secured the pictures he wanted, to the distress of the Northern Ireland Office, showing him behind a wire-mesh gate, barred from the peace talks.

A month later, he was pictured in the Lower Ormeau

Road in Belfast, trapped behind two rows of Royal Ulster Constabulary armoured

And yesterday he did it again. He was in the Irish event for the launch of his autobiography. Before the Dawn. Instead, he was happy to be at the centre of a semicircle of more than 100 television cameramen, photographers and reporters, drawn by the IRA arms find earlier in the week and the Labour absolute deference." he said.
"I think they are long suffering." He did not add "like the to the House of Commons.

media, from a private meeting with Labour MPs Jeremy Corbyn and Tony Benn through to a photo opportu-nity on the College Green out-side Parliament. By the eve-ning, he had done a series of interviews, including a radio phone-in. This morning, he is due to fly to Dublin, a successries a prison sentence.

ful trip behind him. At the press conference, apart from the odd soft ques-

Asked about the arms find, he replied: 'I am very pleased only one person was killed'

tion about literary influences - after all, it was a book launch — the tone of the journalists was hostile.

Had he in fact shot dead a British officer, as described in the book in a section he claimed was fictional? Did he write the articles under the pseudonym Brownie expressing pride at

being in the IRA?
Was he pleased or sorry
about this week's London arms find?

years. He has learned not to become rattled to provide an answer of some sort. No. he had not killed a British officer. Yes, he had written some of the Brownie articles but not that one. He could hardly answer otherwise: admitting to membership of the IRA car-

On the arms find, he said: "I am very pleased that only one person was killed." But he hadn't answered the question: was he pleased or sorry? He replied that as far as he was concerned he had

answered the question.

A handful of people at the back of the hall applauded at the end. One. 85-year-old Kathleen Gibbons, had travelled from Hampstead just to see him and spend the press conference balancing on top of a wobbly chair. She had been impressed: there had been nothing "boastful, noth-ing bombastic" about him. But she was not disinterested: her dead husband, Danny. had been in an IRA flying column in County Mayo in the years immediately after the 1916 Rising.

The journalists were less

impressed, checking notes, realising they had yet again failed to pin him down.

### Press buried under world wide junk

### Avalanche of unsolicited e-mail sent to the station it activated an automatic reply clogs up computer systems set up for listeners' e-mail enquiries about the show.

NTIL yesterday, National Public Radio station struggling against the tide to insert serious de-bate into American talk radio. Now it is despised by media organisations acros

media organisations across the western world.
Staff at more than 100 newspapers and magazines, including the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph, entered work yesterday to find that the station was hombarding them with an bombarding them with an e-mail detailing the running order of a Sunday pro-gramme. At first the stray mailer was amusing; after 95 copies had clogged up their computer systems. and destruction of healthy an- the organisations saw red.

fucking mind to send me 95 identical copies of unsolic-ited mail about your proramme that I never asked for," one e-mail reply fumed. "Stop this nonsense!"

The debacle is the latest example of a growing prob-lem in cyberspace — junk mail. As commercial com-panies attempt to cash in on the massive popularity of the Internet, a whole industry, known as spam-ming, has emerged compil-ing and selling lists of users' addresses. In this case, a company unconnected with NPR. In-

formation Brokers, had compiled a list of 129 media organisations in the United States, Britain and Europe. But in a test that went horribly wrong, when the "You must be out of your | badly-constructed list was

Ironically, it began:
"Please forgive this form
response, but because of
the volume of mail we receive, we find it impossi-

ble to respond personally to every message . . . ". For reasons unknown to NPR, this was then sent continuously to every name on the list. By the time the

station's computer department was alerted, thousands of copies had already been sent into cyberspace. Yesterday, the station's bosses were struggling to regain the respect of the world's media. "I got as many of our e-mails as anyone, so I know exactly how

it feels," said Robert Ma-lesky, the senior producer whose name was at the bottom of the mailer. "I will be writing letters of apology to everyone inconvenienced and stressing this list had

to take a very long lunch." While paper leaflets can be discarded easily, regular Internet users are becom-ing accustomed to a few junk mailers everyday. Without knowing, they give away their e-mail address every time they read a World Wide Web page.

But media organisations, unable to hide their addresses or filter out unwanted mail. are increasingly finding their systems creaking under the weight of unsaligited inch.

creaking under the weight of unsolicited junk.
"For people who publish their address, it is something they have to learn to cope with," said Bill Thompson, a computer journalist. "The NPR case shows the technology is so powerful it gives you the powerful it gives you the potential to humiliate yourself in public without even

### Police lied over Bhutto shooting

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad

MEDICAL investiga-tion into the police killing of Murtaza Bhutto, the brother of the Pakistani prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has exposed lies in the police ac-count of the shooting.

The investigation concluded that the senior police officer at the scene in fact shot himself in the foot, al-though he claimed to have been shot by Murtaza's

The injury had been cited by the officer as the reason why the police opened fire. They say they were shot at during a confrontation at a checkpoint in Karachi a week ago, and returned fire, killing Murtaza and six of his men.

Murtaza's widow, Ghinwa, said the police had made up the story, and the provincial government in Sind set up an investigation team. Its report says: "keeping in

view the direction of the wound on the easily accessible. least dangerous and non-vital part of the body ... the members of the board are of the unanimous opinion that the left foot injury ... has been caused by a firearm at close range and is self-

Benazir's initial theory that her brother was the target of a pre-planned killing. Yesterday, she widened her theory to accuse elements within the country of setting in motion

an attempt to overthrow her. The last few days have seen a flurry of developments. On Friday her brother was shot dead. On Monday her former ally. President Faroog Legh-ari, chose — at the height of her mourning period - to criticise her government for what he said was its failure to tackle corruption.

In his first attempt to assert his authority for three years, the president invoked a rarely-used article of the con-stitution to force parliament to consider changes to anti-

corruption legislation.
Yesterday. Mr Leghari met
the main opposition leader. the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, for the first time in three years and hinted that he was prepared to use his constitutional powers to dismiss the government if he thought it was in the national interest.

Benazir told a crowd of mourners: "If they think I'm a woman and I'll just collapse crying they are wrong. I am a defender of the democratic system and I will fight."
In a matter of days, Paki-

stan has moved from political

### Arab-Israeli clashes kill 55

continued from page 1 trolley, and blood on the bodies both living and dead being unloaded and crammed into the plainly inadequate

Opposite the casualty entrance was a sign in Arabic and English. listing the facilities: Physiotherapy, Mainte-nance. Utility Store. Morgue. Back on the Jerusalem road there was a bull in the gunfire. Israel radio gave the battle a brief mention, but had other more dramatic news to recount a siege of Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip, the death of Israeli soldiers in

home of Mr Netanyahu. The gunfire started again; great ragged volleys of it. Yet the one shot which stands out from yesterday's madness

was fired not on the Jerusa-lem road, but on the settler bypass to the east. It came from a smart red Israeli-plated van which slowed in front of the Guardian car, and pulled over to the side. A long-barrelled gun appeared from the driver's window and a single shot was loosed off at a small Arab village 500 yards away. The war was some way off, but that single, cretinous shot was what it was all Nablus, and the early arrival | about.

RECENT FLOPS

In this week's Radio Times Eddie Murphy talks about his early success and his recent failures. And why he's scared about going back to stand up comedy.

Radiofimes

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Storm II pot as i chefs la the 'old

Torie:

Lex Doval Smoth

Marie St. 11.

CANADA CO SOUTH &

-Israeli clasheskilla

Transport of the state of the s

Innovative menu

Fére á la beneit ake Geneva fish (from the mon family) with beneite in woodland near the ant with a flavour

injecent of chargerate

edible thistle))

(six plates of creme brûlde, each flavoured

Ath an Alpine herb

by Marc Veyrat

Vive la différence

Traditional menu

from Georges Blane aree-stor Michelin Chaf

oullies au marlage ces et poudre d'ail (Frogs' legs cooked in a timbal mould with spices

bouillon corsé a l'hulle da truffes et légumes étuvés fleur de sei

Crepes Vonnessiennes (Pancakas, Vonnes-style)

erts du momen

escy broth of truffle oil and

### **Palme 'killed** by SA agent'

David Beresford in Johannesburg

HE self-confessed head of a police assassination squad. Colonel Eugene De Kock, told the supreme court in Pretoria vesterday he bad evidence that South African security services were responsible for the murder of the Swedish prime minister, Olof Palme, in 1986.

De Kock — who has been convicted of six murders and a string of other crimes — was testifying in mitigation of sentence. He claimed the killing had been carried out with the help of a notorious South African agent. Craig Williamson.
"It was one of Craig Williamson's Operation Long Reach projects. I wanted it to be investigated before it was

covered up." he said.

Elsewhere in his evidence, testifying about the abuse of state funds by the security services, he said a British agent was once paid about £100,000 after threatening to expose South African police involvement in a bomb attack on the London offices of the African National Congress

There has been speculation in the past about South African involvement in the mur-der of Palme, who was shot dead while walking home with his wife from a cinema in central Stockholm.

Lars Jonsson, the deputy chief of the Swedish police panel investigating the murder, said yesterday: "A part of the De Kock information is new. I do not want to say what is new to us and what is A petty criminal, Christer

Pettersson, was tried for the murder in 1989, but acquitted. Mr Williamson was one of South Africa's most success-ful spies until his cover was blown by the Guardian in 1980, when he held a key posi-tion as deputy director of an anti-apartheid funding agency in Geneva.

Mr Williamson returned to South Africa and became a senior officer in the security masterminded the bombing of the ANC's London offices in 1982, for which he and members of the sabotage team including one Peter Caselton
— were decorated by the

South African government. In 1983 a Swedish man, Bertl Wedin, was charged with burgling the London offices of the second South Afr can liberation movement, the Pan-Africanist Congress. He said he had been recruited by Mr Caselton and his "han-dler" was Mr Williamson.

South African security forces are known to have sent murder units to Europe in the 1980s to kill anti-apartheid figures. One victim, Dulcie September, the ANC's chief representative in France, was shot dead in Paris in 1988. Palme strongly opposed the apartheid regime and Sweden made substantial contribu-

tions to the ANC.



Red pepper and mango . . . produce that whets 'novelty' appetites but is apt to be frowned on by the traditionalists

Storm in a stew pot as 'novelty' chefs lambast

the 'old fogeys'

On either side in the debate: Marc Veyrat (left), who favours fungi, and Georges Blanc, president of the guild

Alex Duval Smith on the row that has split the Guild of Haute Cuisine

the broth since nouvelle cuisine left diners hungry in the 1980s. France's top traditional chefs have disowned a breed of "novelty cooks" who think nothing of serving up edible thistles fol-lowed by red pepper sorbet.

Yesterday, up to 20 of the country's youngest and most talented chefs resigned from the Guild of Haute Cuisine, claiming that the stalwarts of their professional body were old fogeys trying to stunt creativity. The man accused by tra-

ditionalists of curdling the mayonnaise is Marc Veyrat, a 45-year-old chef whose restaurant in An-necy, in the Alps, has three Michelin stars. He controversially laces his dishes

restaurant. In May, Mr Veyrat was publicly flambéed by 13 traditionalist chefs who handed a petition to the French government denouncing "the tendency among some colleagues to mix anything with every-thing in the name of innovation

The chefs, led by the president of the 80-member Guild of Haute Cuisine, Georges Blanc, aged 53, called for a pledge to use local produce and a return to "simplicity and harmony of flavours" so as to "safe guard France's identity".

This invective led Mr Veyrat and his supporters to accuse Mr Blanc whose restaurant in Vonnas, central France, has

even circulated, naming Mr Blanc as a member of the National Front.

Yesterday Mr Veyrat was unrepentant over his move to inspire some of France's most talented chefs to leave the guild, whose role is to lobby the government over quality standards and

He said: "Cuisine is like architecture or any other art form. It draws its influences widely. Ten of my supporters have three stars — these are brave people for whom money is second-ary to the profession pro-gressing. To defend national identity is

Another chef who left the guild yesterday, Alain Sen-derens, said it was more im-

ity of ingredients than their

"In ancient Gaul, there was not much to eat apart from chestnuts and acorns. The original cassoulet was made with broad beans. The haricot bean, an import, came much later. Where would the famous south-western stew be today without the haricot bean?"

Mr Blanc was yesterday refusing to comment on the walkout, stressing that his petition in May had not been drawn up in the name of the guild. He added that be had received formal letters of resignation from fewer than 10 of Mr Veyrat's 20 alleged supporters.

anything directly against chefs guild."

pline", echoes of a plea Tony Blair made to his own team 24

hours earlier. Ministers will

he expected to submit

speeches they make on the

conference fringe as well as in the hall for inspection, he

said with Mr Major's backing. This reflects the Euro-row

which sceptics intend to push

hard on the fringe in the hope

N THE worst row to spoil | with herbs and fungi from | had three stars since 1981 | portant to defend the qual- | Mr Veyrat. I cannot be the broth since nonvelle | woodland near his | — of racism. False rumours | ity of ingredients than their | accused of being divisive. accused of being divisive. Our guild has existed for 10 years and I shall shortly be-

PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER TOOTH

come the first president to have survived a full threeyear mandate. The peacemakers include chefs such as Guy Martin at the Paris restaurant, Le Grand Véfour.

His menu yesterday mixed classic dishes with desserts that included stewed mango with cinna-mon accompanied by red

pepper sorbet. Mr Martin said: "Chefs are like little boys who throw paddles. There are great chefs on both sides of the argument. De Gaulle said it was impossible to govern a country with 350 "This row is getting too cheeses, so imagine what it personal; I have never said must be like running the

Party appeals to trade unionists using this month's party conference in Bournemouth to lieves he can win the election missal from the Treasury — "co-ordination and discipled opt-out compromise." 'dropped' by moderniser Blair

Michael White, Political Editor

■HE Conservatives today launch a direct attempt to win back blue collar voters from Labour by telling trade unionists that Tony Blair's modernising drive has dropped them "as though they were a pair of dirty overalls".

In an unprecedented advertisement in the Guardian, the Tories declare: "If Labour Don't Want You, We Do." The party warns rank and file trade unionists that "For New Labour You Are the Danger even though Mr Blair still accepts money in return for

influence for union bosses The advertising pitch emerged yesterday as Cabinet ministers were told to submit conference speeches for vet ting to prevent more damaging splits over Europe and gaffes such as Michael Portil-lo's SAS speech last year. Behind the trade union ap-

tla verruca

alee dides to form a unique

nt protective barrier designed to

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Bazuka is guick and easy to use - a comple treatment kit that is now the UK's No.1 selling

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of verrucas, warts.

oazuka

peal is a decision by John Mato outflank Tony Blair by

emphasise "opportunity for all" in a classless society. It is an explicit dig at what

is seen as the Labour leader-ship's obsession with the middle class in which, private Tory polling claims to detect, Labour's traditional base is

feeling neglected.
"Working men and women re welcome in the Conserva tive Party. We will not claim to put your interests above all others. But we pledge not to put any interests above yours," says the advert, pub-lished on page 9. Plans are also afoot to

revive the Conservatives Trade Unionists organisation. Despite renewed party in-

next spring — although this week's MORI poll for the Times puts his party on 29 per cent against Labour's 52 and 14 per cent for the Liberal

i ories target 'neglected' blue collar voters

The tighter discipline an nounced at yesterday's Cabinet session, came after Ma Major told his team to use its week in Bournemouth to set out practical and realistic policles for the election — what the Prime Minister called "the action thing, not the vision thing".

Democrats.

Mr Major even urged col-leagues not to bash Labour too hard in Bournemouth. He wants them to come across as an experienced and seasoned eam, in contrast both with Labour's relative youth.

After a week which saw a fresh sniping over the European single currency — and

missal from the Treasury — yesterday brought renewed speculation that Mr Major may choose to manoeuvre his eovernment into a snap election in November rather than

face a harrowing winter.

Such talk, including a pre-diction of Mr Clarke's replacement by a cut-and-run chancellor, was widely dis-missed last night. "The elec-tion will be on May 1," senior party sources stresse

But ministers may have to buy off discontented Ulster Unionist MPs before a likely vote on the BSE crisis — un-less the Labour left's embrace of Gerry Adams has concen-trated Unionist minds. They also face the prospect of an-

other awkward byelection, since one Tory backbencher is seriously ill. Yesterday's Cabinet session saw the party chairman.

It also rectifies a desultory performance last year which saw key speeches delivered without being checked for policy consistency. Above all Mr Portillo's first speech as Defence Secretary was only

seen in early draft.
It left the Mr Major to sit through a shrill "Who dares

PUNCH, EVERY FRIDAY. THE MAGAZINE THAT DOESN'T GET INVITED BACK. PUNCH

IN PUNCH THIS WEEK, THE PECULIAR MANAGEMENT STYLE OF BRITAIN'S WOST POWERFUL ORESS BARON IS REVEALED, SOMEONE OTHER THAN PRINCE CHARLES I RITICISES MODERN ARCHITECTURE. IND BILLIAM NALDEGRAVE MP EXPLAINS MAY HE'S HAD TO GAT UP BUYING MOMEN'S CLOTHES, PUNCTUAT YOUR NEWSAGENT EVERY FRIDAY, OR CALL FREE ON 0800 592 439 FOR DETAILS OF THE SURSCRIPTION OFFER.

### Paula Yates 'surprised' after drug squad raid on her home

Vivek Chaudhary

HE television star Paula Yates and her lover, Michael Hutchence, were said westerday to be in "complete surprise" following a drug squad raid on their London home in which controlled substances were seized.

Ms Yates, aged 34, former wife of the singer Bob Geldof, and INXS singer Hutchence are currently in Australia with their two-month-old daughter. Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily.

Mark Stephens, the cou-

ple's lawyer, said: "The news has come as a complete surprise to them both.
"Paula and Michael have received no contact of any kind from the police and they

wish to make no further Officers from the drugs raid.

squad raided the couple's £750,000 home in Chelsea, west London, finding a num-ber of controlled substances. A police spokesman said that officers obtained a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act and that the raid took place following information they had received. He refused to confirm

reports that the substance found was opium, adding only: "The substances found in the house will now be analysed and our inquiries are continuing." The couple's nanny, Anita

The couple's namy, Anna Debney, was questioned by police following the raid.

She said yesterday: "I was interviewed by police but I haven't heard yet if they want to speak to me again."

She added that she had telephoned Ms Yates and her boyfriend to tell them about the raid.

What is the most innocent and beautiful woman on the catwalk doing with the seediest, low-down renegade in American cinema? Claudia Schiffer's new career

Friday Review page 8

AFTER RECENT FLOPS

### 'Design flaw caused girl's death' on slide

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl died after being trapped as a result of a design flaw on a garden slide bought from the Early Learning Centre, an inquest was told yesterday. The hearing was held as Newcastle council prepares to prosecute the shop's parent company. John Menzies UK.

The inquest, which recorded a verdict of accidental death, heard that Amy Grieveson's head became jammed in the gap between the slide's chute and the support strut connecting it to the ladder as she played outside her home in Walker. Newcastle upon Tyne, in April. Her mother. Kirsty Docking, aged 24, discovered Amy but she died six days later in hospital from brain damage caused by lack of oxygen.

Ibrar Shekh, the Early Learning Centre's technical manager, said checks found no record of previous serious accidents involving the slide. However, it was withdrawn from sale after Amy's death and the firm later developed a modification kit to

Amy's death and the firm later developed a modification kit to cover the gap. It issued 30,000 free to families and the kits are still available in its shops.

### Tarrant in £3m radio deal

CHRIS Tarrant has confirmed his position as one of Britain's highest paid broadcasters with a new three-year contract with Capital Radio estimated at £3 million. The deal puts him ahead of Chris Evans, the presenter of Radio 1's breakfast show, in the pay stakes. Evans's company. Ginger, is understood to receive about a million a year from the BBC but he has to use some of the

money to pay his staff and production costs.

Tarrant said: "I couldn't miss the opportunity of continuing to talk to London on Capital FM. It's the most fun job in the world."

The 48-year-old broadcaster is host of LWT's Tarrant on TV. show, for which he is reputed to earn an extra £200.000. He has been presenting his early morning show on Capital for 11 years. - Andrew Culf

### **Nazis 'infiltrated Red Cross'**

THE International Red Cross is investigating claims in declassified US intelligence documents that the agency was penetrated by Nazi agents during the second world war. A document, dated April 1946 — a copy of which has been seen by the Guardian — refers to "employees of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross] who reportedly have used their position to carry enemy funds and enemy-owned jewels across the Swiss frontier" Another states that "information from many sources points to the conclusion that the International Red Cross is being used as a cover for German agents".

The documents, some of which identify individuals, were unearthed by the World Jewish Congress and have been passed to the Jewish Chronicle. The Geneva-based ICRC acknowledges that a number of employees who temporarily worked for the agency might have been involved in espionage. — Richard Norton-Taylor

#### III inmates to lose shackles

INMATES have been left chained to hospital beds as a matter of routine policy when they are treated by the NHS, the Prison Service has confirmed. New instructions are to be issued shortly to prison governors banning the practice but only after the Prison Service's head of security. William Abbott, had to issue an apology to one immate "for the humiliation" he suffered.

The change of policy comes as the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramsbotham, launched a public call for the Prison Service to appoint a director of young offenders to ensure

that the neglected needs of teenage inmates are met. The decision to change policy on shackling inmates while they are in hospital follows a row earlier this year about the chaining of pregnant women prisoners in the hours before they give birth and an incident in which a women prisoner had to attend her child's funeral in chains. — *Alan Travis* 

#### 'Slaves friend' honoured

THOMAS Clarkson, whose 48 years of struggle helped to end slavery in much of the world, was belatedly honoured at Westminster Abbey last night. A green slate stone commemorating the Victorian "friend of slaves" was dedicated in the abbey's north choir aisle close to the grave of his partner in the campaign, William Wilberforce. Wilberforce — who received most credit for the campaign — has been buried there for 163 years. Descendants of both Clarkson and Wilberforce helped lobby for the honour and were in the congregation, alongside modern anti-slavery campaigners. — John Ezurd

### Clarification

IT IS regretted if any connection was made between the findings of a youth survey published on Monday. September 23, and the accompanying photograph of a group of young people. We wish to point out that the photograph of the group was taken at a roller-blading event in Bromley, south London.



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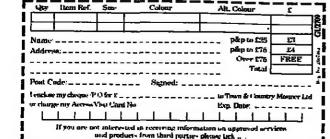
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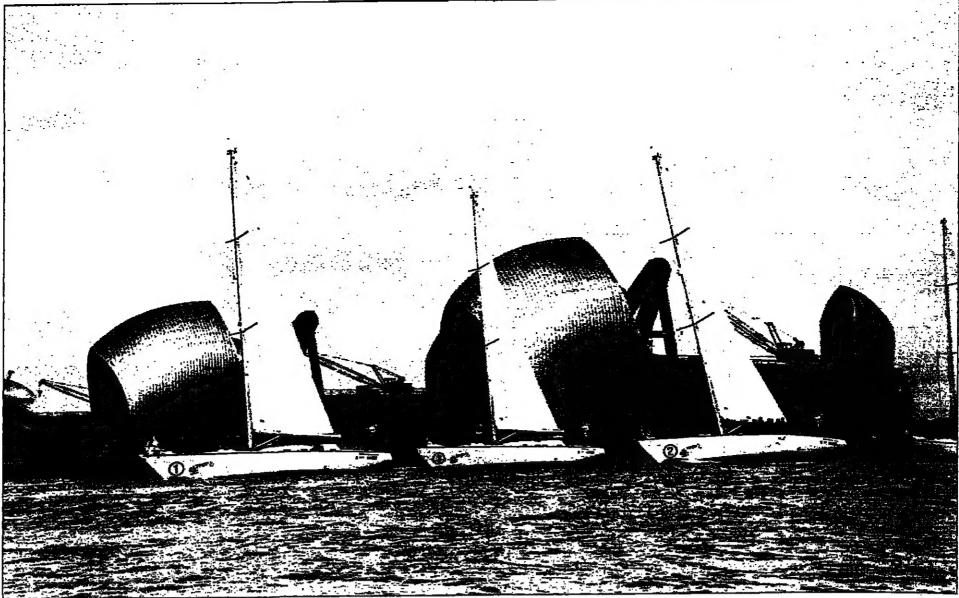
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Identical 60ft clipper yachts passing the Thames barrier yesterday en route for two days' public viewing in St Katherine's dock, central London. With crews aged 17 to 70, eight of the boats will compete in a round the world race organised by circumnavigator Sir Robin Knox-Johnston starting from Plymouth Sound on October 12 PHOTOGRAPH: PHOLIP MEECH

### Inquiry as child sex offender recaptured

Sarah Boseley

DANGEROUS paedophile who spent 30 hours on the run after escaping from a psychiatric hospital was rearrested yesterday, but a second child sex offender was still on the loose last night.

Dozens of police officers were deployed to patrol schools after the escape of John Mayes, aged 45, who was described as very violent and a particular danger to chil-dren. The public were warned not to approach him.

Mayes was convicted of a serious sexual assault on a seven-year-old boy in 1994. He had three previous convictions for sexual attacks on children.

An investigation is under way into the disappearance of the paedophile, who ran off as he was being escorted through the grounds of St Margaret's psychiatric hospital in Great Barr. Birming-



John Mayes: Picked up by police at M6 junction

marily with learning disabilities. He was receiving psychotherapy and behavioural treatment. The hospital is reviewing whether one psy-chiatric nurse was adequate to escort such a patient.

Mayes was picked up on the ham, to his locked ward. Cannock roundabout at juncMayes, who has an IQ of 70, tion 11 of the M6 in the West had been placed by a court in the hospital, which deals prid by motorway traffic police.

Cannock roundabout at juncpealed to Daggett, who has act on public concerns, some three convictions for indemember states made clear cently assaulting young girls there was no chance of the coin Cumbria in 1984, to return.

St Margaret's, said it was up to clinicians to decide whether they would apply to the Home Office for Mayes to be transferred to a more secure hospital.

Steve Daggett, aged 36. a low risk category inmate of Ashworth special hospital in Maghull, Merseyside, also absconded on Wednesday. He phoned the hospital that evening to say his disappearance was a protest, but a spokeswoman said yesterday: don't know over what."

Daggett gave his escort the slip while on a shopping trip in the centre of Liverpool as part of a rehabilitation programme. As a result of his disappearance — and that of another Ashworth patient recently on an outing to Blackpool — all such trips have been cancelled until the hospital completes an

Staff at the hospital

Wayne Cooper, acting chief | EU ministers take cautious line | European Control | EU ministers take cautious line | Trust with responsibility for | Concordinating action against on co-ordinating action against international paedophile rings

Stephen Bates in Dublin

UROPEAN justice minis-tiers agreed cautious first steps to counteract international psedophile rings at a meeting in Dublic yesterday. but shied away from calls to co-ordinate criminal codes and sentencing of offenders.

The moves are likely to fall far short of the co-ordinated action demanded by MEPs. national politicians and pressure groups in the wake of revelations about sex rings in Belgium and other countries and mounting concern about the fate of missing children. As ministers put a brave

face on their lowest common denominator moves by claiming they were acting more quickly than ever before to ordinated action that has of children which does not in-

been demanded. Timothy Kirkhope, junior Home Office minister, said: The problem of harmonisation is that we have a very rough stance and I don't think a lot of other

Britain was not alone in its opposition. Winnie Sor-drager, the Dutch justice minister, said Holland would not harmonise its more liberal legal system, particularly in regard to drugs, the other issue on which there is pressure for co-ordinated action. She said: "Everybody has their own system of justice. We can agree that sexual exploitation of children and the

countries do."

punishment.' sexual abuse crimes varies widely across the European Union In Italy sexual abuse

volve violence is not a crime. The attempt to harmonise legislation was led by Belgium after the discovery of a child abduction ring in the south-ern city of Charleroi, but other EU states made clear that they see no prospect of judges being expected to levy similar sentences, on

After the meeting Stefaan de Clerck, Belgium's justice minister, said he would not give up pressing for harmoni-sation. "Perhaps the Belgian proposal was too detailed to get through," he said.

Ministers settled for pro-claiming major advances in exchanging information and expertise in tackling peedo-phile rings, and an extension of the European drugs unit's remit to cover trafficking in humans. The drugs unit is expected to be absorbed in Euro-pol, the EU's planned internamaking of pornographic vide pol, the EU's planned internseos should be punishable but tional police intelligence

not on the sort of Even plans for interna-At present the definition of tional registers of convicted sexual abuse crimes varies paedophiles and missing children are foundering on ques-

### Judge orders psychiatric reports on woman who killed her baby and assaulted two others

AYOUNG mother who suf-focated her eight-week-old baby daughter and assaulted two other infants by stopping them breathing was remanded in custody for psy-chiatric reports yesterday after being convicted of manslaughter. Nichola Jordan, aged 20, from Chard, Somerset, was

flicting grievous bodily harm on a 10-month-old boy. She was cleared of causing the boy grievous bodily harm with intent to endanger his life. Jordan had earlier been found guilty by a unanimous verdict of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to an 11-day-old girl.

The prosecution said Jordan intended to take the babies to cleared at Exeter crown court the brink of death so she or future before sentence could of murdering her baby, Polly, but found guilty of man-slaughter by an 11-1 majority. The brink of death so she or future before sentence could someone else could revive be passed. He warned her this them. It was suggested she had slaughter by an 11-1 majority.

The jury also convicted her pathy for herself, and wanted by a majority verdict of in- to be seen as a heroine for resuscitating the babies. Mr Justice Potts told Jordan she had been convicted on clear evidence of the offences against the children.

After representations from her defence counsel, Nigel Pascoe QC, he said he agreed it was necessary to have full reports on her condition at the time of the offences and her likely condition in the

It was police investigations | herself and perhaps intended | times before he began to into the attack on the 11-day | to be seen as a heroine," Mr | breathe. old girl that led to Jordan being accused of the murder of her own daughter eight months earlier in January 1994, and of the assault on the 10-month-old boy in 1990.

when she was only 14.
Paul Dunkels QC. prosecuting, told the court Jordan had not intended to kill her daughter but things went wrong and the baby's life could not be saved. "We cannot say for certain

but we suggest she was seek-

to be seen as a heroine," Mr breathe.

Dunkels said.

Eight The court heard that the

first incident occurred while Jordan was on a work experience placement from her school in Chard. She was asked by the mother of the 10-month-old boy to change his called for an ambulance and

The mother heard screaming which then stopped. She met Jordan coming down-stairs holding the baby which was blue. The mother said she anyone else's baby, because I but we suggest she was seek-ing attention or sympathy for slapped his back hard several baby.

Eight months after the death of her own baby, which a pathologist had concluded

was a cot death, Jordan was asked by a friend to babysit. The court was told that rang to tell the parents the baby had stopped breathing.

Jordan resuscitated her.
Jordan told police: "Inere
is no way I would ever harm know what it is like to lose a

### **EU** ready to allow Blair extra time to negotiate Maastricht

John Palmer in Brussels

HE European Union has for the first time sig-nalled its readiness to Tony Blair and a new Labour government more time to negotiate changes to the Maastricht treaty by de-laying an agreement until the

The Dutch prime minister. Wim Kok, who had hoped to sign a new treaty next sum-mer during the Dutch presi-dency of the European Union. has now said that it may have treaty review conference by to be delayed until the winter original deadline of next

tion meeting with the Luxembourg government, Mr Kok said: "The British election campaign creates too many uncertainties about holding the conference [next

Until recently EU governments still privately exish election might come this autumn. That would have left enough time for what they confidently expect will be an incoming Labour government to conclude the Maastricht

"All the signs are that Mr the need for greater majority Major will hold on to office as voting, some reduction in the late as next April or May," a senior Dutch diplomat said Tony Blair just a few weeks to reach a detailed agreement with the rest of us on a new treaty. That is a little unreasonable"

imreasonable"

EU governments fear that any delay in signing the new treaty could postpone the planned start of negotiations to enlarge the European Union. But they still hope that a Labour government, especially one that may have the broad backing of the Liberal Democrats. Will accept out the advantages of a single currency. The MPs, led by Giles Radice, plan to distribute their document at next week's party conference in Blackpool.

Their initiative comes as a riposte to the 50 Labour Eurosceptics who launched a campaign earlier this year against a single currency. nreasonable EU governments fear that

national veto, more powers for the European Parliament and other reforms resisted by John Major's government. Meanhile 14 Labour pro-

European MPs vesterday launched a pamphlet spelling out the advantages of a single

Police did not use West home as brothel and drinking club

Kamal Ahmed

ALLEGATIONS that police used the home of Fred and Rosemary West as a brothel and drinking club have been dismissed by the Police Complaints Authority after a seven-month investigation.

The authority said that it could find no evidence to support the claims by Sharon Compton, a friend of Alison Chambers, one of the West's murder victims. Mrs Compton, who is in her

30s, said police were regular visitors to the West's Cromwell Street home in the 1970s when the Wests' victims were being buried in the cellar. She claimed police would often with the clean bill of drink at a bar set up in the being given to the force.

house and would go to Rose mary West's bedroom for sex.
On one occasion Mrs Comp ton claimed that she was fied to a chair and, after a "really horrendous torture session" was released by a man wear-ing a police uniform under a raincoat. Her complaint was passed to the authority by Gloucestershire police after allegations that there had been a failure to properly investigate her allegations. But in its report the PCA said that

The Gloucestershire deputy chief constable, Nigel Burgess, said: "While their conclusions do not come as a surprise I am obviously pleased with the clean bill of health

there was no evidence of such

a failure.

### Discovery of mutant gene offers hope for HIV drug

Tim Radford Science Editor

MERICAN scientists believe they have dis-covered the genetic fac-tors that might confer resistance to the HIV virus. A team led by Stephen O'Brien of the National Can-

Maryland, report today that they have found a gene mutation that seems to explain why some people at high risk from the virus do not get infected, and also why other people who do become infected live for many years without developing Aids.

It is not certain yet what the CKR5 receptor does, so a gene, one from each parent. People with two mutant copies of the gene were, they report today that the virus smuggle itself into an immune system cell and hijack the victim's DNA to do its work for it. Once it can repliwithout developing Aids.
The news — published in the US journal Science — the virus mutates, mak-

active gay men and intravecer Institute in Bethesda, comes as UN officials calcu- ing it ultimately invulnerable nous drug users — and found

with one mutant copy pro-gressed towards Aids more slowly than those without

really has opened up a whole new area for treatment and



Major and He

#### Brought to book: Tory

gar Ghatcian .

recapture

and assaulted two

30 - 30 - 30 - 30 - 30 - 30 - 30

### PM sees time for sequel to wife's home truths

Nick Varley

F MICHAEL Foot's 1983 Labour manifesto was the longest suicide note in history, Norma Major last night launched what

At 267 pages, her history of the prime minister's official residence. Chequers, is described as "the definitive guide to one of Britain's east known and most interesting

treasures". By next year it might be a memento of her time at the house, although she told the guests at the book's launching party at Soth-eby's she bad no plans to

To loud cheers from the gathered Tory faithful, including Lord Archer, she We've enjoyed enormously using Chequers. We hope to go on using it for a considerable time to come." Her husband added:
"I have plans for a suffi-clently long time that Norma will have the chance to write the sequel. Chequers II, some time in

Mrs Major has inter-Mrs Major has inter-viewed former prime min-ing the book, mainly at a



Norma Major poised to sign copies of her book yesterday. Her publishers predict

sters, including Lady large table with her work Thatcher, to get a flavour of the history of the house and the characters that have inhabited it. Built in the 16th century, it was given to the nation in 1921 to be a sanctuary for prime

ministers. Mrs Major has spent four

spread round ber, her husband disclosed. He added: "I should just like to say how very proud I am of Norma and what she has done. I've seen it from its genesis. I saw the chapters thrown into the fire grate and pulled out some of them." Eddy Bell, chairman of

ers, predicted the book, called Chequers, would be a Mrs Major told the guests: "I hope you will en-joy roading it as much as I enjoyed writing it."

Lord Archer, whose latest novel has sold 318,000 in hardback, sald: "It's a lovely book. Of course it

#### **Brought** to book: Labour

### Leftwing veteran detects echoes of Sir Oswald

Michael White Political Editor

ony Blair yesterday opened his heart as a country-loving family man whose ambitions had been spurred by the sudden and early death of his mother. But he did so in the face of lurid competition from a for mer Labour colleague, who came close to accusing him of being a potential fascist.

Leo Abse, leftwing MP for Pontypool from 1958 to 1987, is not quite that blunt in his diagnosis. But he insists that Mr Blair's "ageist" obsession with youth, rebirth and renewal for New Labour — buttressed by a passion for "consensus by dictat" — is reminiscent of the late Sir Os-

"It is exactly this type of myth, which invaded the poli-tics of the 20th century, no-



Asked why he had aired his theories in yesterday's Daily Mail — whose pre-war enthusiasm for fascism is not a matter of mere speculation — Mr Abse, now 79, said he used it for the same reason his leader

ence than Tribune.

to live in the countryside — as he did for part of his childhood — if his day job permitted. does: to reach a wider audi-

"Bringing up children in At a press conference he the country is a million times accused the leadership of better than in towns for small

It is a far cry from Mr Blair's own interview with Country Life magazine which

reveals he would much prefer

#### The volume is awash with jargon such as 'defective handling of aggressivity'

blackmail against the Labour Party and said it must be resisted. "When I see a man hijacking my party then of course it means that, however reluctantly, in the end one realises - as the hijack be comes firmer - that one must speak out."

The nub of Mr Abse's attack tics of the 20th century, notably in Nazi Germany, that wreaked havoc." he writes in his new book, The Man Behind The Smile: Tony Blair And The Politics Of Beauty of the Smile of the 20th century, notably in Nazi Germany, that man, who has always been an outsider in school, university and politics. "I do not accuse Blair of betrayal ... if you never belonged you cannot betray." he said yesterday.

and obvious reasons: the facilities are far better," Mr Blair explained. Neither does Mr Abse's

analysis, that both Tony and Cherte Blair are victims of nomadic and insecure child-hoods, lead him to the same conclusions which Mr Blair drew — evidently anticipating the Abse attack — in yes-

Whereas Mr Abse sees Mr Blair as embracing "conflict-free fantasy politics," the Labour leader himself is more

night and not commenting on the row, had posed for pic-tures on the day of her clash

with Mr Clarke, maintaining

it was a lot of fuss over

It is not the first time Ms Ford, who is a friend of the

BBC's new chairman, Sir

Christopher Bland, has fallen

out with her BBC employers.

Tony Blair as pictured in the pages of Country Life, to which he revealed a preference for the bucolic lifestyle

by early family misfortune. Of his mother's sudden death from cancer when he was a student, he told the Mirror: "I felt not so much a sense of ambition as a consciousness that time is short. My life took on an urgency which has probably never left it. I have a constant restlessness to do

As an amateur Freudian Mr Abse is famous for his efforts to introduce psychoanalysis into the Westminster arena. Previous books include Private Member and Margaret: Daughter of Beatrice, which dwelled at length on the former premier's dislike of her mother.

His latest volume is awash with jargon about "defective handling of aggressivity" and "narcissistic androgynous qualities". Mr Blair is supposed to have these, which is a had Freudian thing — as distinct from hermaphrodite qualities which great leaders like Nye Bevan and Hugh Gaitskell skilfully exploited.

Mr Abse, whose reputation has been that of a clever, vain man who never held office, in-sists that Labour MPs and activists will recognise his portrait of a ruthless man whose unresolved fear of aggression leads him to concensus by dictat.

He also says it is inconceiv able that voters will not throw out John Major's "decrepit, moribund, sleaze-driven government" and that those who say the election is in doubt are playing on people's fears to shut them up. "What I want is a real Labour government," he

### Major and Heseltine ready to testify in Guardian libel trial

**Owen Bowcott** 

OHN Major, Michael He-seltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the former Con-servative chief whip, Richard Ryder, are prepared to appear in the "cash for questions" libel action to answer any "relevant" questions.

Their willingness to enter the witness box was confirmed in a brief pre-trial

by Neil Hamilton, former trade and industry minister, and the political lobbyist lan

The first two days of the trial at the High Court, which begins on Tuesday, are expected to be taken up with legal argument over the disabsence of the jury. Charles Gray QC, who is

brought against the Guardian | Mr Justice Bell: "The Prime | Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Ryder, the former chief whip, are con-cerned to assist and co-operate with this court in arriving at a fair resolution of the

"Each of those individuals, and the Cabinet Secretary legal argument over the dis-closure of documents, in the [Sir Robin Butler] is ready to [Greer and Mr Hamilton deny attend court in due course to answer whatever questions is not a party to the action. representing ministers and may be relevant relating to was represented in court yeshearing yesterday in the case | departments. told the judge, | issues arising from this | terday

action from the witness box. If Mr Major is called, he will be the first prime minister to give evidence in court The case stems from reports in the Guardian in October 1994 that Tory MPs Neil Ham-ilton and Tim Smith received payments in return for asking the allegation. Mr Smith, who

### Tory politicians are silenced in confrontations with Ford

**Andrew Culf** 

HEN Anna Ford upbraided the Chancel-lor, Kenneth Clarke, for refusing to elevate the debate, the line to the Today programme's radio car went dead. It was the second time in her career that the famously cool and polished 52-year-old broadcaster had left a senior Conservative politician

On this occasion, according to the BBC, the abrupt ending was due to a technical hitch, but both incidents were to hit the headlines with dramatic impact. It was in 1983, two years after the disastrous launch of TV-am, that she confronted her former boss, Jonathan Aitken, and threw a glass of wine in his face.

Lord Callaghan, the former prime minister, and Lord Hailsham, then Lord Chancellor, watched in astonishment. Her complaint was that Mr. Aitken had betrayed the stars of the ITV breakfast station, who were sacked after just three months on the air. Last week's tetchy on-air interview with Mr Clarke was described by broadcasting colleagues as "completely out of character".

One radio presenter said:
"Brian Redhead used to get
away with it all the time, putting his own gloss on the story,
but Anna is normally courteous. It was a totally different interview from normal. But in the corridors of the

Last year she was forced to apologise after writing to the Guardian to complain about Some questioned whether Ms Ford, who presents up to 40 editions of Today each year, had the political savvy to cope with heavyweight interviews.

Some were questioning Straw's toughened crime whether Ms Ford, who has a policy. contract to present between 30 and 40 editions of Today each year, had the political savvy to cope with the big set-piece heavyweight interviews.

BBC others were less sure. I shadow home secretary Jack

policy.
Some colleagues find her self-possessed icy coolness difficult to cope with, and she made enemies in 1994 when

Ms Ford, who is well-known for her liberal views and feminist campaigning, has faced one big hurdle throughout her broadcasting career - how to be taken seriously while the commentators and critics concentrate on her classically fragrant good looks.

Sometimes she has played along with the image, last year posing for a Snowdon photo spread in Vogue in a glamorous ballgown. Peter Jay, now the BBC economics editor and a former colleague at TV-am, once described her as "the most beautiful woman in England". When she took to newsreading in 1978 with ITN's News at Ten she was just 34 and seen as the commercial channel's answer to

Angela Rippon.

Her early morning bust-up with Mr Clarke has at least helped her shed the dreaded 'bimbo" image and proved she is a tough interviewer, to be reckoned with alongside she crossed a BBC picket line, the BBC's acknowledged hard Ms Ford, who was reading insisting that as a single men Jeremy Paxman and BBC1's Six O'Clock News last parent she could not afford to John Humphrys.

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### Marriage statistics in free-fall as 'traditional' family declines

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

HE marriage rate has dropped by more than half since 1971, official figures showed yesterday,

and population analysts de clared that the "traditional" family was no longer the norm in British society. Growth of individualism and increasing exercise of choice about how people live is leading to the acceptance of "a variety of norms" of household composition, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Provisional figures show there were 291,100 marriages in England and Wales in 1994, a 2.7 per cent fall on the 1993 total which was itself the lowest since the 1920s. In 1971 there had been 404.700

weddings.

After adjusting for popula-tion size, the marriage rate is shown to have more than halved since 1971 from 69 per 1,000 unmarried people over 16 to 33.8 in 1994. There was more than one

divorce for every two mar-riages in 1994 — 158,200 against 291,100 — and the div-orce rate of 13.4 per 1,000 married people compared to 5.9 in 1971. The rate did, however, ease back to 13.1 last year.

The declining popularity of marriage is one of the key trends analysed in a report by the ONS on the "fundamental" changes affecting house holds and families. While fewer people are

marrying and staying married, more are cohabiting or opting to live on their own. More parents are raising chil-born to unmarried women. dren single-handedly, but i

### Changing living habits Type of family with head



43.5 1991 35.8 1992 35.9 34.7 1993 33.8 1994 16 Cohabiting couple tamilies

Marriage

1971

1976

1981

Persons marrying per 100,000, 15 and over

69.0

57.7

49.6

ing to remain childless. The report, published in mon strand may be traced through many of the trends Population Trends, says that as recently as 1986, 83 per cent of families with or without children were headed by married couples. By 1994, that fig-ure had fallen to 71 per cent. Only 56 per cent of men and

women aged 18-49 were part of a married couple in 1994 down from 62 per cent in 1986 — with a further 10 per cent cohabiting, 15 per cent living with one or both parents, 11 per cent living alone, 6 per cent sharing with others and 1.3 per cent raising children alone

John Haskey, the report's 111.

Lone parent families more women, too, are choos- | author, says: "Possibly a com

> and characteristics described in this review: that of the growth of individualism or the increasing exercise of "Of course, exercising choice, or a growing empha-sis upon individual development and fulfilment, is much

easier in a society if different patterns of demographic behaviour are generally accepted as valid alternatives and the trend towards a variety of norms is perhaps the most significant aspect of post-war social change."

Population Trends 85; HMSO;

### Saturday is losing its attraction as wedding day

SATURDAY is losing its ap-peal as the best day for weddings among those couples who are still getting married, the government statisticians say. Although two-thirds of cere

monies do take place on a Saturday, other days are gaining in popularity. Fewer than half all register office weddings are now held on Saturdays.
The supremacy of Saturday

as a wedding day is a rela-tively recent phenomenon: Sunday, Monday and Thursday have all been most popu-lar at various times in

history. In 1864, only 17 per cent of marriages occurred on Satur-days, with 21 per cent on Mondays and 32 per cent on Sundays. Christmas Day was one of the top choices.

A study of weddings in 1994, published in Population Trends, says 68 per cent were on Saturdays. In 1979, the proportion had been 76 per cent. Of civil ceremonies, which were all held at register of-fices in 1994, 49 per cent were

on Saturdays, compared to 61 per cent in 1979. The highest daily rate of marriages was in September although most Monday wed dings were on February 14, St Valentine's Day. This romantic choice was most common among couples both remarry-

ing after divorces.

for HIV drug

### Warnings about armed cadres return to haunt Jerusalem ● Washington scrambles to keep lid on as election nears



A Palestinian policemen fires his AK-47 rifle at Israeli troops stationed on the hills prounding the West Bank town of Ramallah

# Israelis stunned as

Palestinian police/Despised by their people, the ex-guerrillas can now redeem themselves, writes Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem

ment agreed to thousands of Palestinian other Arab countries, it hoped that they would play an important role in maint ing order and security in Pal-estinian controlled cities.

Israel's late prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, ignored warn ings from critics of the Oslo accord who claimed the Pales-tinian policemen would one day turn their guns on Jews. The Oslo accord allows Yasser Arafat's self-rule Palestine National Authority to maintain about 18,000 armed policemen, but there are now more than 35,000 ed members of at least eight different security

For many of these Palestinolicemen, this is not the time they have faced

TEN Israel's Israeli soldiers. Most are fedo-per, freedom fighters, or vet-erans of the guerrilla war waged from inside Jordan Syria and Lebanon, and only a few have formal police

Another several thousand Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip were recruited to serve in the various security forces after the nt of the Palestin ian Authority. They, too, lack formal police training and most have served time in Israeli prisons.

Their military ranks accord to the length of time spent in to the length of time spent in Israel's prisons, or in battles against the Israeli army. The head of one of the security organisations, Jibril Rajouh, spent 17 years in different Israeli jails. Upon his release, he was instantly decorated and awarded the rank of colo-nei. Today he heads one of Mr Arafat's most important secu-rity organisations, the

rity Apparatus.
Other "generals" acquired their positions thanks to their

loyalty to their president, Mr Arafat. Rank is also equated with protection, and may be bestowed on those fortunate enough to have friends or relatives in important po The majority of Mr Arafat's policemen left their families

sehind in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia and Sudan. Even if Israel allows their families to join them, the policemen will have difficulty in supporting their wives and children.

Their average salary is 2200 per month, and months sometimes pass before wages ar-rive. This has encouraged widespread corruption — from the most humble to those in the highest ranks.

Many policemen are in-volved in blackmail, extor-

Arafat's generals in the West Bank city of Ramallah was uspended after it turned out that he had struck a deal with Israeli businessmen to open a asino in Jericho.

Another top officer in Geza is accused of raping a 17-year-old girl and, according to Israeli police, most of Mr Ara-fat's lieutenants drive cars stolen from Israel.

Hatred also divides the eight security organisations. The heads of agencies consider each other enemies and are involved in continuous intrigues against their per-ceived rivals. Palestinian analysts say that Mr Arafat well known as a practitioner of divide and rule - encour-

ages such rivalries. Until last week, Mr Arafat's police were universally detested by Palestinians, who saw them as surrogates of the Israeli army. At least 10 Pales-tinians have died in the past two years as a result of tor-ture in prison. Two months ago, Palestinians took to the streets and threw stones at police in West Bank cities. In

set fire to police headquarters

· Now the police have an opportunity to change their

image and prove they are not oppressors — but defenders. Yesterday, Mr Arafat ordered his policemen to cease fire. He said the use of arms was legitimate only in cases hours after his announcement, Palestinian snipers continued to fire from roof tops and hilltops at Israeli soldiers in many West Bank and

Mr Arafat's office said the ceaselire decision was taken after an appeal from Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, and President

Mr Arafat can still exert enough authority to rein in his security forces. If he succeeds, he will once again have proved to Israel and the rest of the world that he is the only figure they can address to so Palestinian problem.

### Nervous White House appeals for calm

US diplomacy/ Clinton aides are

now scrabbling to salvage workable scraps from the Middle Eastern peace process as it unravels before their eyes, reports Martin Walker in Washington

tion was yesterday put-ting the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships under strong pressure to declare a truce, in order to preserve some workable remnant of the Middle East peace

Bill Clinton's foreign policy and "peacemaker" initiatives in serious trouble — from Northern Ireland to Haiti — the White House is scrambling for calm in the West Bank to keep foreign disas-ters out of the public mind in the five weeks remaining be-fore the United States presi-

"I urged Mr [Binyamin] Netanyahu, as we have been urging Chairman [Yasser] Arafat, to take steps to calm the situation, defuse it and get back to productive negotia-tions," the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher. said. Mr Christopher spoke to the Israell prime minister in Paris, shortly before he cut short his European trip to fly to Israel from Germany.

been taking personal credit. | The sudden eruption of for have underscored

tanvahu to close the new tunnel near the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, which has out-raged the Palestinians. Mean-while, it has tried to restrain its Arab allies from over

reacting to the crisis.
We have been in constant touch with officials on both sides, and saying that each side should avoid creating

lenger, the opportunity to return to his campaign charge that "Bill Clinton's policies of indecision, weakness and vaciliation are making the world a more dan-

gerous place".
The US position in the Middle East had been undernew issues that can inflame mined already by the virtual the situation," Nicholas end of talks between Israel

The president hopes to salvage a deal for which he had taken personal credit

Burns, the state department spokesman, said yesterday, in troversial new tunnel.

"Israel and the Palestinian authority have agreed that Jerusalem issues are finalstatus issues and should be calm and peaceful setting," Mr Burns added.

short his European trip to fly to Israel from Germany.

President Clinton was expected to talk to both the Israeli and Palestinian leading in Israel of Mr Clinton's ers by telephone yesterday, in the hope of salvaging a peace didate, Shimon Peres, during

and Syria since Mi Netanyahu's election — de spite Mr Christopher's 27 duiful trips to Demascus. It has been further weakened by the strains in the Gulf war alliance which followed its renewed cruise missile attacks on Iraq earlier this month

The short-lived ceasefire in Northern Ireland was one of the high points of Clinton the high points of Clinton diplomacy, promising a solid reward in Irish-American within Nato about the future reward in Irish-American votes. But the latest arms finds in Britain and the shooting by police of an Climton's unfailing support apparently marmed man for Boris Yeltsin now looks to

eign policy embarrassments | fragility of the US-backed is giving Bob Dole, the US | peace process. peace process. In Haiti, Mr Clinton's bold-

ness in sending US troops to overthrow the military junta and restore democratic rule has run into serious trouble. Last week, US treasury and state department agents were discreetly sent to Haiti to take over responsibility for the safety of President Rene Preval after fears that his own security staff had become unreliable

Congress has its eye on the unstable situation in Haiti. Yesterday, Mr Clinton was forced to cite national security and executive privilege to subpoenaed. Congress was de-manding to know how much the White House knew about the alleged murders of Hai-tian opposition leaders by security agents of the US-

backed government In Bosnia, the US-brokered peace agreement is faltering after election results which seemed to congeal ethnic dif-ferences. Massive fraud has

of the peacekeeping force.

And in Russia, President the be an uncertain investment.

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Arab reaction/ Call to halt bloodshed contrasts with talk of a new intifada

for 'the impossible'

ING Hussein of Jor-dan pleaded yesterday for "the impossible" to be done to halt the bloodshed between Palestinians and Israelis.

After the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, the king is the Arab leader under most pressure from grassroots Palestinians angry at his involvement in a Middle East peace process which has yet to deliver peace or economic benefits. "We have to do the impos-sible to calm matters to stop them from worsen-ing, Jordan's news agency Petra quoted him as saying Earlier, he said Israel

Earlier, he said Israel must be stopped from continuing work on the controversial tunnel in Jerusalem, and that an international committee should be formed "to discuss what happened".

"This committee should consist of representatives of all international organisations," he said.

sations," he said. "Israel must be stopped from going shead with the tunnel. Jerusalem must be

a symbol of peace.
"I believe there is still hope for pasce. Everyone has suffered so much. It will be a disaster for all of us if we move away from the peace process."

Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel recognised Jordan's "special role" in Muslim holy

shrines in Arab Jerusalem. In Cairo, a meeting of Arab League representatives warned Israel yesterday that the clashes could create "a whiripool of vio-lence, instability and

But the 22-member eague took no steps other than to demand that Israel stick to peace agreements and start negotiations to determine the final status

"We call on Israel to lift its siege on Jerusalem and on all Palestinian land," the league said in a state-

emergency meeting called by Mr Arafat. It described the past two days of clashes as a new "intifada". The Palestinian ambassa

ment after a two-hour

dor to the league, Moham-med Sobelh, warned that the bloodshed would end any semblance of peace be-tween Israel and its Arab neighbours.
"We are now confronted

with a state of war with Is-rael," he said. "The Arab nation is committed to the strategic decision of peace but not at the price of Arab

rights." Mr Sobeih added: "The Palestinian land has turned into a battlefield. We need a united and effective effort in these hours." Egypt's official Al-Ahrem

newspaper said Israeli in-transigence was creating "a volcano which could a voltanto which could support a sny moment", adding that "Israel will probably be the higgest — and only —loser".

In Lebanon's refugee camps yesterday, a Palestinian strike closed schools

and shops and other businesses. In Rin el-Hil-web, the largest camp, Pal-estinians hoisted black flags and burned tyres. In the northern town of Tripoli, hundreds of refugees staged a sit-in.

In the Syrian capital, Demascus, the ruling party's Al-Basin newspaper called the opening of the tunnel "the beginning of a new op-rising", referring to the intifada. Iran condemned Israel's

completion of the tunnel. A foreign ministry spokes-man, Mohammad Moham-madi, called the move a "flagrant aggression against Islamic holy places", the Islamic Republic news agency reported

### How the hopes for peace unravelled

Countdown/ Shyam Bhatia on the build-up to

confrontation HE writing was on the wall last May when Is-raelis voted in their new rightwing government. For Palestinians the victory of Binyamin Netanyahu and his Likud Party meant the end of their dream of independent

statebood. During the campaign Mr Netanyahu stressed that un-like his predecessors he would build more Jewish settlements and strengthen israel's grip on Arab East

These were the warning shots, but the real hattle started when Mr Netanyahau

gave key cabinet posts to well-known hawks.
Within days Mr Netanyahu telephoned King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to reassure them that his government was committed to the Middle East peace process.

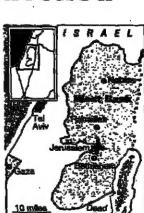
But Mr Netanyahu shunned the president of the Palestin-ian Authority, Yasser Arafat.

Only after American pressure did he agree in July to dispatch his foreign minister. David Levy, to see Mr Arafat. Two weeks later, in early August, Mr Netanyahu's office banned Mr Arafat from flying between Gaza and the West Bank on the pretext that his helicopters needed safety

The Palestinian president was allowed to make the jour-ney a week later, but at Tel Aviv the pilot was told to stay airborne for 45 minutes before being cleared to land in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The proof for the Palestinians that Mr Netanyahu is not committed to the peace pro-cass is his policy on Hebron, the only city still under exclu-sive Palestinian control.

When Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu met in early september; the Palestinians were surprised to learn that Israel was delaying the



tanyahu's excuse was con-400 Jewish extremists living in the city centre.

Further evidence that the peace process was unravelling was provided when israel announced plans to expand Jew-ish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Only last week the cabinet approved building 200 homes

approved building 200 homes in Kiryat Sefer, a settlement near Ramallah.

The government also began confiscating thousands of acres of Palestinian-owned lands to build "safe" roads for the exclusive use of Jewish settless More land settlers. More land was taken

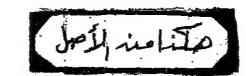
expand existing settlements.
However, both sides knew that the real flashpoint would be over Jerusalem. When a Palestinian council-

lor opened an office in his Je-rusalem home in late July, it was closed down.
Last month Israeli bulidoz-

ers demolished a Palestinian youth centre in the walled city, claiming it had been built without planning permission. Dozens of Arab nomes are set to be demolished for the same reason,

These measures led the Palestinians to believe that the battle for Jerusalem had started. Palestinian human rights activists reported last week that several Arabs had lost their right to permanent residence in the city.

The opening of the archaeo-logical tunnel, Palestinians say, was the final straw.



Dawn clashes lead to day of gunbattles as Islamists call for a jihad ● Israeli PM's tunnel vision unleashed violence

# Palestine rises in bloody revolt

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

Israeli pitched battles in the occu-pied territories yes-terday, as the three-year-old peace accord disintegrated

into anarchy.
As night fell, the death toll from two days of fierce clashes was 44 Palestinians and 11 Israelis, Hundreds

were wounded.
The first clashes were reported soon after dawn. Al-though there were signs of a night, gunbattles were continuing in the main

flashpoints. Israel has been harshly critcially in Arab countries. while extreme Islamist groups have called for a jihad, or holy war, in response to the bloodshed. At the United Nations, the Security Council was meeting in special session to discuss the crisis last night despite clear indica-tions that the United States demning Israel.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, cut short his three-day visit to London, Paris and Bonn, and take charge of the most serious crisis since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed the peace ac-cord a little more than three sitions, backed by elements of years ago. From his aircraft, he tele-

phoned Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader and Palestinian president, to suggest an early meeting to calm the situation. Mr Arafat said they should discuss meeting after Mr Ne-tanyahu landed.

ing prime minister in Mr Netanyahu's absence, said Mr Arafat had promised be would act to end the violence. "If he cannot, then he cannot be a leader," he said.

The military authorities deciared a state of emergency in the occupied territories. All army leave and training was cancelled but, as of last night, there was no move to mobi lise Israel's formidable

main self-rule enclaves of the

were conquered in 1967 the Is raeli army was obliged to de-ploy tanks and other armour to protect occupation troops. In Ramallah, helicopter gun ships' heavy automatic weapons were used to beat back Palestinian forces and a huge mob intent on attacking Israeli positions.

In one of the most dramatic and bloody clashes, an Israeli army position in the Palestin-ian self-ruled enclave of Nablus in the West Bank was almost overrun and several soldiers killed.

The isolated position, at the site held by religious Jews to be the tomb of the Biblical patriarch Joseph, was attacked by a mob that included many Palestinian policemen.

Major General Uzi Dayan. the Israeli central command chief, said several of the 43 soldiers on duty at the tomb were killed or wounded. Six Israeli Jeeps and two ar-

moured personnel carriers were set ablaze and the building was damaged.
Palestinians in the area
said PLO forces kept the mob away from the shrine, and brought the trapped Israelis

call their families. There was another dramatic siege in the Gaza Strip, where about 4.000 Jewish setflew home from Germany to | tiers live under strong army than 800,000 Palestinians. Soon after dawn stone-throw-

> the PLO forces armed with automatic weapons. The small and isolated settlement of Kfar Darom was subjected to a sustained barrage of stones and gunfire. At least three of the dozen or so semi-autonomous forces under Mr Arafat's command were involved, including the coastal police.

A 14-year-old Palestinian girl was among the dead in died when a mob overran a military post near Netzarim, another isolated Jewish

settlement near Gaza City. For the second day, there were heavy exchanges of fire in Bethlehem, where Palestin-ians attacked Israeli forces at the Tomb of Rachel, a Jewish holy site now heavily Large numbers of troops guarded.
were deployed around the Turkey has received

reports that President Hafez West Bank. All Palestinians | al-Assad of Syria may be ill, from the territories were for- but has been unable to confirm them, Tansu Ciller, the For the first time since the foreign minister, said



Press photographer Manoocher Deghati screams in pain seconds after being shot yesterday in crossfire in Bethlehem

'We are now confronted with a state of war with Israel'

 Mohammed Sobeih. Palestinian ambassador

What was until now politically doubtful is starting to become a reality full of blood

> Shimon Peres, Israeli Labour Party leader

'We are defending our hearts. Jerusalem is our heart'

### Netanyahu's two faces reveal little about the man

The enigma/Derek Brown on an unpredictable leader who has been described as behaving like an 'elephant in a china shop'

ing Israel's prime minister. He has appeared to em-brace the peace policies of the previous government and he has behaved as if he holds those same policies in contempt. He has assured Arab governments he is committed to peace, and he has identified himself with Jewish expansionism in the

occupied territories.

BINYAMIN Netanyahu once. He promised a new office, never more star-remains an enigma economic order with fiscal tlingly so than in his deci-lingly so than in his deci-discipline, privatisation sion this week to order the and deregulation. Yet at opening of the north end of the ancient Hasmoneau the first sign of union resis tunnel running along the Western, or Wailing, Wall tance, he assured them of continuing state control. in old Jerusalem.

Mr Netanyahu's inexperience - he is 46 - is an asset. say some admirers. Israelis, they say, voted for "Bibi" because they were fed up with venerable, stuck-intheir-ways tribal elders.

But with inexperience It is not just the peace rends to go unpredictability out ity. That quality has sur-

In the popular daily Ma'ariv, columnist Hemi Shalev wrote: "Since he took office, Netanyahu has

the tunnel is a strong link with their history, and a tourist attraction. Both riews are wildly simplistic. It does not run under Haram al-Sharif, and is al-

ready open to visitors.
The plan to increase the capacity of the tunnel is 10 years old but has been shelved by successive govbehaved like an elephant in ernments who knew how

Many Palestinians be- | and intelligence officials. He | ministerial level. We did Many Palestinians believe that the tunnel will went on: "The astounding physically undermine thing is that when the decimosques on Haram al-Sharif, known to Jews as Temple Mount. For Jews, the translation of the prime ministerial level. We did. Thirdly, we'll arrive at a package, a way of addressston was made, it was well in the outstanding issues. We did. And fourthly, we'll begin to negotiate on the possibility that it would result in violence . . . Nevertheless, the decision was made under the assumption that after the first spate of reactions, things would calm down ... Fiery reac-

tions from Arab countries such as Jordan were not prime minister offered this me to think that this is a a china shop."

To outsiders, the bloodletting unleashed by the tunnel decision may seem the decision to go ahead was the Palestinian Authority.

key issues, all of them, in-cluding Hebron, and we're doing that."

Minutes earlier, he had offered another view on relationships with the Pal-estinians. "My family came tions from Arab countries here to this land 100 years such as Jordan were not taken into account."

Earlier this week the this land back to life. For strange land which I have to disown is abhorrent. I understand that others may have attachments as well

w the hopesion ice unravelled

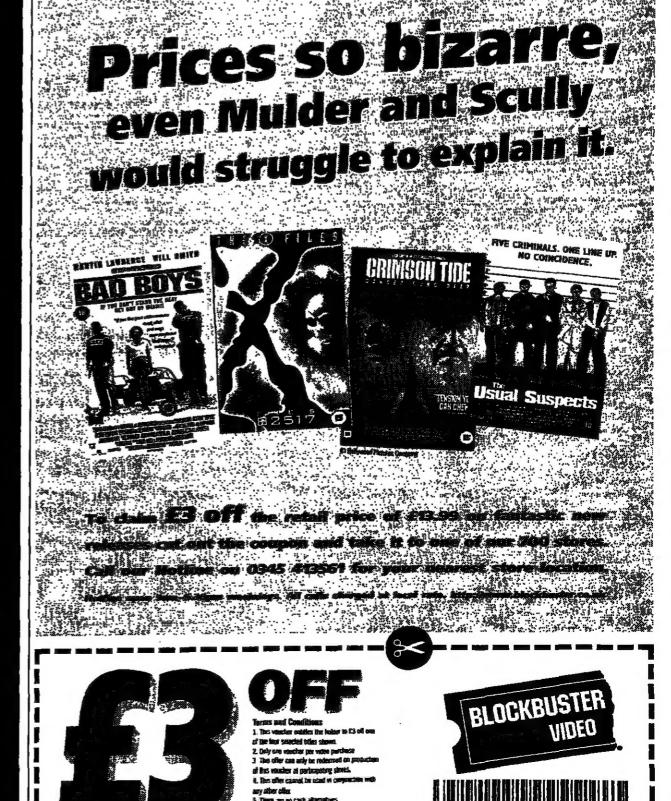
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### The Guardian

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### Pull back from the brink

Clinton must start piling pressure on Israel

Palestinians out of the abyss into which the peace process is now sliding? Stopping the violence only tackles the consequence not the cause. In what may be becoming a new intifada, no amount of instructions from Yasser Arafat will then proceed to unravel the rest of the Oslo accord. In such a climate it is your hard to handle specific to the constant of the cause of the Oslo accord. In such a climate it is your hard to handle specific to the cause of the Oslo accord. check every stone-thrower - or restrain Hamas. What is needed is to start, or re-start, something which has ground to a shattering halt — the peace process itself.

Mr Netanyahu's government, as Malcolm Rifkind has said, must spell out the Israeli position and "actually enter into the negotiations in a constructive way." Mr Rifkind adds that he is not yet persuaded that the Israeli government has clarified even in its own mind what its strategic objective might be. In terms of muffled British diplomacy, this is strong stuff. It is a pity that John Major did not say as much, or more, publicly when Mr Netanyahu was passing through. It has been left to President Chirac, once again, to state clearly how most Europeans see the situation, with his telephone call to Mr Arafat and France's unequivocal criticism of the foolish "tunnel" provocation in Jerusalem. Mr Netanyahu has said he is "proud that we did it [completing the tunnel close to the Temple Mount now". That is of a piece with his superficial and over-assertive approach to these matters of huge and grave importance. Commentators in some of doubt. They describe Mr Netanyahu as an "endemic refusenik", who has cre-Israelis at home. Yet he was elected by a bare majority of them.

It is only too easy to deal out blame. Mr Netanyahu has reneged on some many others: worse, he has created an

HOW CAN Israel dig itself and the expectation that he will go on doing so Palestinians out of the abyss into which indefinitely. Palestinians fear that if climate it is very hard to handle spe-cific flashpoints. The lack of response to Mr Arafat's significant concession in closing down two Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem does not encourage fur-

ther gestures of goodwill. Mr Arafat himself has signally failed to establish in his own emerging Pales-tinian entity any sense of social confi-dence and democratic accountability which, at this time of crisis, could offer alternatives to stone-throwing and despair. His proliferating police forces are dangerously undisciplined, though it seems clear that in many instances yesterday they only used their weapons after seeing Palestinians killed or wounded by Israeli fire. Increasing numbers of Palestinians reproach Mr Arafat for having gone down the peace process, even if it remains hard to see what alternative he had. In short, this is a situation from which no one in their right minds would want to start if they were not already there.

It may still not be too late for Mr Netanyahu to demonstrate, as a commentator in Ha'aretz puts it, that he is gaining experience very fast. The tun-nel could be closed indefinitely; plans the main Israeli newspapers are in no for new settlement housing could be postponed; outstanding commitments, such as free passage between Gaza and ated "a dangerous tide" in relations the West Bank, could be delivered with the Arab world, and an apprehentomorrow. Washington should take sion of the "next war" among ordinary | more seriously Mr Netanyahu's recent threat to put his "holy" claim to Jerusalem ahead of good relations with the US. Bill Clinton needs to lift his eyes from the ballot box and pile on the commitments and procrastinated on pressure: what Israel needs is cool rethinking and constructive action.



Patients and doctors will benefit from greater precision

thousands of women stopped taking the pills. Pregnancies soared and nine months on we saw at least a 10 per cent rise in abortions because of the increase in unwanted pregnancies. Yet what was the true measure of risk? Even after doubling, it remained extremely low: from 1.5 to three per 10,000 women. Ironically, the risk of blood clots from pregnancy is twice as high as the risk from the new pills. Doubling extremely low risks means statistically the risk will remain low.

Alas, journalism frequently fails to relay this fact. Reporters intent on "selling" their stories to news desks are not going to get much space with a three out of 10,000 women will get blood clots if they persist with the new generation of pills. Small earthquakes no longer get much space. But the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is right to try and improve the reporting of risk. As a first step he set out some definitions for debate this week.

benefit too. Doctors are far too imprebecause they do not know themselves.

REMEMBER killer pills? Last October's | Telling someone there is a low risk is story was about a new generation of meaningless. If a consensus can be contraceptive pills which doubled the achieved on definitions — the CMO has risk of blood clots. The research produced his own list beginning with received wide media coverage — by | high (greater than one in 100) down to radio, television and press. Hundreds of | negligible (one in a million) — then doctors can be asked to be more precise. It will all add to the growth of evidencebased medicine. There are already wellestablished risk ratios for some conditions: from a one-in-six chance of transmission from HIV mother to child in Europe to a one-in-a-million chance of an adverse response to a polio vacci-

nation, but many more are needed. Further down the road, the CMO believes a risk rating could be given of the danger posed by new drugs and clinical procedures. None of this will be simple. Distinctions will need to be made between acceptable and unacceptable, avoidable and unavoidable, and justifiable and unjustifiable risks. Some news story which declares that only patients will not want to know the precise risks but many will. Some risks are reassuring: the one-in-a-million chance of dying through being hit by lightning compared to a one-in-two heavy smoker dying from a tobaccorelated disease. Not all will be persuaded to change their behaviour, as smokers demonstrate. Probabilities do It is not just the general newspaper not tell the individual whether they will reader who could benefit from this be the one who will be hit. Pessimists be the one who will be hit. Pessimists exercise. Patients and doctors could may believe they will always be the one in a million to be hit; optimists that cise about the risks which patients face | they will always be the one in two to from drugs or treatments, frequently escape. The CMO quotes Kant: "We see things not as they are, but as we are."

### For butler or worse

Absolute deference is the order of the day

I always treat butlers with absolute | this mull over in the noddle before deference. I think they are long-suffering in many ways. They share almost a common experience as do representatives of Sinn Fein - Gerry Adams, explaining his taste for P G Wodehouse.

"JEEVES." I said, the way one does when he shimmers into the room bearing the restorative snifter. I dimly remembered a little dinner for Gussie Fink-Nottle at the Drones. Hearing the chimes at midnight had been only the start of the revelry. Somehow the chimes had locked into my skull, but Jeeves's bracer began to silence the din, clear the mists and put together the scrambled jig-saw of my mind. As usual some of the pieces were missing.

Tell me, Jeeves, would you call yourself - well - long-suffering?" "Since you ask, sir, I confess that there have been times when my pa-tience has been somewhat tested." I let

lobbing a supplementary: "Jeeves, you must know a butler or two. In fact, I would wager you know just about every butler currently butling."

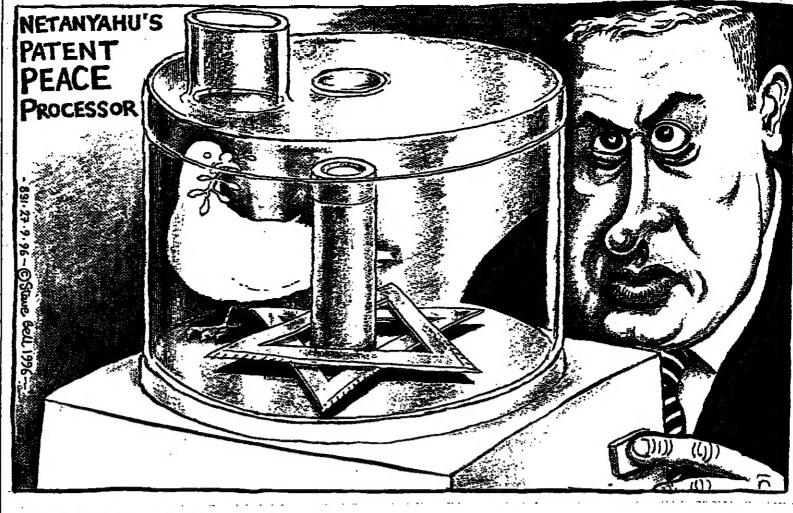
"My acquaintance does indeed include numerous male servants, sir, in charge of the wine, table, etcetera." The fellow's a walking dictionary.

'Would a fellow called Adams ring a bell with these butler chums of yours? "Mr Gerry Adams? He is indeed well-known to the butling fraternity, sir. Rarely does a day pass without Mr Adams conversing with several, both within and without his employ."

"And how does he treat them?" "Just as he is said to treat representatives of Sinn Fein."

"And how is that?" "With absolute deference. Will there be anything further, sir?" "That will be all, Jeeves," I said, returning to my Molotov cocktail.

these offences had dawned. The opportunity must not be allowed to slip because of a failure of political will.



Letters to the Editor

### Jeremy's friends come to his aid This Castle is under attack

been a concerted plot to single out Jeremy Corbyn by the Labour Party's front bench to which your leader-writer has given unc-tuous service (Even the foolish have rights, September 26). Corbyn's alleged crime is no greater than that of 12 other Labour MPs who met Sinn Fein after the Canary Wharf bombing to urge a resumption of the IRA ceasefire. Was the timing then so good and the timing now so bad?

When Donald Dewar complains about timing, just days after the discovery of IRA bomb-making equipment, one suspects that what he really means is that it is an uncom-fortable row just before Labour's saccharine showpiece in Blackpool. The truth is that Tony Blair would love to be rid of his own MP. Any cack-handed attempt to chuck out awkward, passionate and popular socialist politicians is good enough in the pursuit

Further, is it really foolish to argue that any IRA cease-fire requires Sinn Fein to play a leading role? The foolish thing, surely, is the Brit-ish attitude to the whole republican movement, which has led to growing restlessness that the peace process was not bearing fruit. Stephen Overell.

HE Labour Party front bench have once again bench have once again willing to speak out for us in North Promenade, shot themselves in the foot public. Without his brave St Anne's F48 7ND.

House of Commons extended by Jeremy Corbyn to Gerry Adams. The arm-waving pro-tests which greet any official could hope for. It was, after all, the cries of anguish over Adams's visit to the United States which helped to make his visit there such a public-

relations triumph.

The ending of the broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein has been extremely instructive in this regard. Incessant media exposure has not been very kind to Adams. It mercilessly showed up his failure to condemn the Manchester bomb ing in addition, the constant broadcasting of his endless invocations against the Brit ish Government are revealing him as the anachronistic and sterile figure which, in reality, he is.

The more platforms he is given, the less sympathy Ad-

ams is likely to receive. The more platforms he is denied. however, the more he is allowed to portray himself as the persecuted freedom fighter. Is that what the Labour front bench want? Walter Cairns. 836 Wilmslow Road.

Manchester M20 8RP other members of the Birmingham Six, Jeremy Corbyn

was one of very few people

HERE appears to have over the furore they have cre- efforts, we might still be land been a concerted plot to ated over the invitation to the guishing in prison for a crime we did not commit In the 1970s, there was an atmo-sphere of anti-Irish hysteria which made it impossible for recognition given to Sinn us to receive a fair trial Fein leaders constitute the Today, the same prejudices best publicity which the latter and knee-jerk emotional reactions make it difficult for honest Members of Parliament like Corbyn to engage in constructive dialogue with all the parties involved in the con-flict in Northern Ireland.

I know I speak for all the Birmingham Six in declaring our huge respect for Jeremy Corbyn and our belief that this country is a better place O'Neill (Death at dawn, September 26). Not least is how they imagined that a per-son who had been in a CSfor ordinary people thanks to his hard work over many years of public service. Gerry Hunter. Address withheld.

FOUND your comments on Jeremy Corbyn distressing. Had it not been for the brave and indefatigable efforts of a handful of people like Corbyn, I would still be in prison for a crime I did not commit, as would the Guildford Four.

This country desperately needs politicians like Corbyn who will speak out for just causes, no matter how unpop-ular they may be. In championing dialogue with Sinn Fein, he is making a practical contribution to peace in Ireland. Far from being a "fool DURING the 16 years I he is a wise man who takes spent in prison with his responsibilities far more seriously than politicians.

ent. The fundamental fault is the antiquated adversarial system, which is a debating

We need radical reforms to revive the naive ideal that

courts might also serve jus-

tice. For instance: disband the

jury system; hear all com-plaints within seven days;

make defendants and plain-tiffs speak for themselves;

allow no coaching of litigants; make perjury subject to

severe sentences: limit the so-

licitors' role to preparing

agreements that will stand up

Such reforms would cost

game for lawyers.

in courts.

14 Brookside,

Judith Ward.

THE motion on pensions which Lady Castle hopes next week's Labour Party con-ference will accept (An acid NEITHER Jeremy Corbyn's statements nor his actions are any different from those of John Hume, who has test for Labour, September 17; Letters, September 26) will do nothing for most of the poorwon widespread praise for his role in the peace process. It seems that if John Hume had est pensioners, will raise ex-pectations about future earnings-related state pensions which cannot be fulfilled, and never have been permitted to take the risks necessary to achieve peace. will absorb practically all future increases in public ex-penditure. In addition, the Castle changes will cost exist-ing occupational pension con-HERE are many ques-tions that the Metropoli-tan Police need to answer over the killing of Diarmuid

been a member of Tony

Blair's New Labour, he would

filled room for "some min-utes" might be in a fit state to

see the police, let alone de-fend himself.

the way in which the authori-ties have attempted to justify

the killing by spreading un-

proven allegations against the dead man. He has never been

found guilty of any offence in

connexion with terrorism and

should be presumed innocent.

If anyone other than the police and the security ser-

vices had been involved in

killing an unarmed person by

shooting them six times, then

everyone involved would now

be under very close arrest

and no statements would be

permitted pending court

Stonebroom, Derby DE55 6JT.

Mandy's media

T is with total dismay that I

read that Mandy Mandelson

has described not only Andy

McSmith but also Nigel Wil-liamson as "one of the most

biased, malicious and un-

pleasant journalists at West-minster" (Letters, September

26). He also described me in

the same terms. I have now lost what I foolishly thought

was my sole distinction as a

Hugh Macpherson.

308 Gray's Inn Road.

London WC1X 8DY.

Tribune.

Upperstones, High Street,

(Dr) J P Rockett.

Perhaps of more concern is

Mike Marqusee.

126b St Paul's Road, London NI 2LR.

tributors up to £550 a year. While the proposal to raise the state retirement pension in line with earnings will cost next year £0.5 billion, not a single penny of this will go to the largest group of poorest pensioners claiming income support. This group will only gain if income-support rates are also raised. If that is done, bang goes any attempt by a future Labour government to disengage from means-testing. Rebuilding Serps is undesir-

able. This Government has halved Serps entitlement only to halve it again. What possible guarantee can Labour offer that a future Tory government will not act in an identical way? Rather than revisiting the past the Labour Party should commit itself to a threefold pensions strategy: • The four million workers ance scheme should be brought within it and thereby begin building up contributions to a flat-rate retirement pension:

 Every worker earning over a modest amount must con-tribute to a second, funded pension. Contributor-ownership of this capital will make it near impossible for a gov-ernment to renege on the value of this pension, as a Tory government has twice done to Serps pensioners. • Re-instigate the last Labour government's policy of the DSS visiting retired people in order to find those pensioners eligible for income support

but not claiming. Aneurin Bevan said socialism was the language of priorities. Rebuilding Serps would mean that none of Labour's other major objectives could be achieved as practically all increases in public expendi-ture would be taken up in chasing a state pension fan-tasy. A vote for the Castle motion will mean a new tax on 16 million contributors to exist. ing second pensions. You can tell Barbara is not a candidate at the next election.

Frank Field MP. House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

and Arts & Mush

#### Falling out over Bosnia

AS an observer of the Bos-nian elections, I found Julian Borger's recent article complaining of election fixing in favour of the Muslim candidate Alija Izetbegovic (West 'covering-up mass fraud in Bosnian polls', September 24) somewhat hypocritical.

Borger, like Martin Woollacott and Guardian leader-writers, has consistently supported the flouting of democracy, calling for the pe-nalisation of Bosnian candidates who expressed popular opposition to liberal multi-culturalism or the artificial boriers imposed by the Dayton

Borger, who has argued for "benign colonial regime" or an "international protector-ate" in Bosnia (Trials and error for a Bosnian solution, September 7), has little right to complain now about the Bosnian people's democratic wishes being undermined.

Dave Chandler.

International Social Policy arch Unit, Leeds Metropolitan

University, Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3HE. WHILE there is still some leverage on Serbia aris-ing from doubts about the lifting of sanctions, it is essential to get Mr Milosevic to procure the compliance by the Repub-lika Srpska with the surrender of persons wanted for trial before the International Crim-inal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Those who perpetrate war crimes and crimes against humanity have enjoyed impunity since Nuremberg. With stablishment of the ICTY, the tribunal on Rwanda, and moves to establish an international criminal court having was hope that a new era of errence and punishment of

House of Lords. London SW1A 0AA.



### The defence was asking for it

DAVID Stanton, the de- born of desperation for any fence barrister in the argument favouring his clistalking court case (Fury over stalking case, September 25), is a well-presented man, who obviously likes to look his best, takes a great deal of thought over his appearance, and sets out to make himself attractive to women. Had he been stalked for eight months by a woman much bigger and stronger than himself, with a record of assault, who threatened him with a wallpaper scraper a couple of times, would he have simply shrugged his saucy little shoulders and said: "Well, I suppose I asked for that. Better dress in a bin-liner in future"? I suggest not. A J Arscott. Church Cottage,

less than the legal-aid fund and deliver justice rapidly and impartially with all law-yers concerned to discover Westmeston, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8RH.

stalking case were possibly Oxford OX3 7PJ.

the truth. Noel Hodson. HE defence barrister's ex-traordinary insults in the

### Warning: more bad language

VISITED our new Safeways in Bredbury, Stockport, today. On the bulletin board that listed "Opportunities", I spotted "Amblent Replenishment". Sensual, but potty. I asked the cashier (Non-Operative Point Of Sales Operative, or whatever) whether this meant supermarks shelf. this meant supermarket shelf-stacker. She nodded, glumly. is this a Safeways Human Resource Management piss-take; or in what sense does stacking supermarket shelves

portunity? Do other readers have a better example of post-

represent an Op-

modernist management bollocks-speak? George Kershaw. 3 Beechwood Avenue, Romiley, Cheshire SK6 4DL.

AGREE with Constant Moore (Letters, September 26) that feminism still has far to go; but she must be careful when claiming that men's ultimate swear word is a de-scription of female genitalia. Has she not heard of the phrase "a load of bollocks"? Denchworth Road Wantage, Oxon OX12 9AU.

NOTE that the slogan be-hind the LibDems' podium at Brighton says "Take Courage For The Future". I thought brewers only supported the Tories. Ron Bill. 59 Park Court, Harlow, Essex CM20 2PZ.

A Country Diary

pleased to report — the taw-nies are back. Although when we first moved here some eight years ago the night air was often richly alive with the calls of tawny owls, we have had a bleak period for some years. But this autumn they are clearly re-occupying territory left vacant for some years. My colleague, the dis-tinguished earth scientist, DrBeck, suggests a plausible explanation. It is that these owls are the young, this year's nestlings, being pushed out to independence by their parents and therefore needing to establish their own territory. We have much to offer a family of tawnies — including an enormous, ivy-clad sycamore, which must be the owl equivalent of a destrable, detached residence in estate-agentspeak. They are clearly very close again for, late one evening last week, the call of the tawny owl was so loud in the bedroom that its author must have been perched on the gutter just above the window. Good news also for our flock

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Good | of Herdwicks, the fattest sheep news on the owi front, I am in the county. On Friday, after many a wearying adventure with the animal trailer on the M5 in the rush hour, we brought home from the Cotswold Farm Park a good-look ing young ram, Herbert, who will be charged with responsibility for impregnating the ewes this tupping season. He is clearly sizing up the chalis clearly sizing up the chal-lenge — sniffing the air with his long, upper lip curled back in the distinctive pose of the ram about to get busy. He's a bit small compared with pre-vious users of the raddle har-ness — I shall need to shorten the straps and tighten the buckles as well as refresh the buckles as well as refresh the wax block. A splendid cameo scene was observed from the window shortly after dawn this morning. this morning — young fox is crossing the field when elderly Herdwick ewe puts her head down and charges at him, clearly determined to be rid of him and his family of vicious killers — an ever-present danger at lambing time. I was so impressed I went down to give her an apple.

COLIN LUCKHURST



### **COMMENT AND ANALYSIS 9**

### Diary

Matthew Norman

mour as a deadly arrow in the political quiver is, as we have reflected be-fore, one of the curses of the ige . . . but now things are getting out of hand. Yester day, comedian Mark Steel wrote on this page deriding Mr Tony Blair's failed attempt to sequester Rory Bremner's scriptwriters, Bremner's scriptwriters, and generally being beastly to the Labour leader. Barely had the world awoken when Robin Cook's office was on to Mr Steel's publisher, and then the Guardian, asking to be put in touch with Mr Steel urgently. "Well, I found it very funny," said Mr Steel when he'd spoken to Cookie. "He wanted me to write some jokes for him about Europe." Despite admiring him ("he's a very nice man, one of the best; he was so good over the Scott report"). Mr Steel declined. "I found it politically fasci-

nating, though," he ex-plains, "because it shows the tensions in the Labour Party. Robin Cook said he particularly enjoyed the epiode of my radio show, The Mark Steel Solution, which was one long, unhinged as-sault on Blair." Internecine strife within the Shadow Cabinet . . . now that must be a joke. Mustn't it?

HE Maxwell Pensioners' annual outing approaches (the Captain went overboard on Novemher 5) and for the fifth anniversary it's a week's pack-age in Tenerife, off the coast of which it happened. Plans are already being made for the 10th anniversary: for a trip to the Captain's Mount of Olives resting place for what, presumably, will be a dancing holiday.

R Bernard Ingham's appointment as Diary Astrologer has again been delayed. When my colleague Emily Barr rang to ask if he has noted signs of a Tory revival in the stars, Bernie made her repeat the question before embarking upon the harrumphing. "But I don't TOUCH the stars. I don't BOTHER with the stars," spluttered Bernie. "This is the third time you've asked me!" (Yes, but not the last!) "Will you tell that stupid man Norman that I DO NOT BOTHER with the stars. Thank you." This is encouraging: Bernie was a decibel and a quarter less loud than last time, and

HR front page of the Daily Telegraph car-ries a picture of Mrs Major and the words ironing board". It's a miracle, a miracle! Only two days ago, Terry Major-Ball was bemoaning his board— the one Young John gave him for a wedding present -and now this. "She's throwing it out?" says Terry, as-tonished, when we call. "But I always thought her ironing board was a built-in one, that folds away into the wall." He pauses for a second, then continues. 'Maybe they've got two. Young John does have a lot of shirts after all." Wouldn' Norma's discard, we wonder, be the ideal substitute for his own, which is too narrow to take a full trouser? But the news has sbocked Terry — "thrown it out? are you sure?" — and for the moment he is unable to think of the future.

N Hello! magazine is a moving apology to his wife, Princess Stephanie of Monaco, from the adulterous Daniel Ducruet. "I have betrayed my wife, I have betrayed her love, and I have betrayed my children," says M Ducruet. We hear there was more to the quote — Tve let the school down, I've let you down . . . but most of all, Sir, I've let myself down" - but Hello! was unable to print it due to lack

ONTROVERSY has struck Aucklandbased television station TVNZ, where a reporter concluded an item on problems with British tourists' holidays by saying that "Brits are at last learning how to complain". At this, anchor woman Judy Bailey chipped in with the thought that, in her experience, British people have never been shy in voicing dissatisfaction . . . and within minutes, the switchhoard was jammed by British expats, complaining furi ously that this was nonsense. Irony, it would



### An Alf Garnett version of European history

### Commentary

#### Peter Preston

AKE two women, and one federal super-state. Both glow in its star-spangled beam. Diana, Pow, turns white and gold and radiant when rich Washington pays her court. Margaret, Baroness of Rusted Memory, exudes a parallel, purring enjoyment. I remem-ber seeing her make a little speech last June on the steps of the American Ambassador's residence. She truly loved that audience, utterly at home. She basked again this week, delivering the first James Bryce American Commonwealth lecture in the Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn.

It was a quasi-academic occasion, organised via London University's excellent Institute of American Studies, and thus not much reported. Speeches quoting Toqueville, Plato, Hobbes and George Orwell tend to pass in media silence. But the theme beneath, a cavernous torrent of and ethical banks". Liberty enthusiasm, swirled from and equality (finglish-style) and resource West Germany tants—as Alistair Cooke said Harry Redknapp's squad: the current headlines. Why was, essential. The "rutted and had brought to Europe in the this week— are a tiny, West Ham United Nations.

Revolution of 1789, the American Revolution of 1776 was a sober affair. "And the sobri-ety and success of the American founding stemmed in large part from the liberal tra-ditions that had grown up in Britain during America's recent colonial past." More-

over, "even the American Revolution itself was a decidedly English affair". (Note that word, "English".) "When the time came to dissolve the political bands by which they land, Americans turned for their guidance to the likes of John Locke, Algernon Sidney and James Harrington."

text. French Revolution, de-

English counsel. Tyranny ig-nited by intellectuals "such as Marx, and Lenin and Nietz-sche". Western civilisation rooted in "religion and reason". But "the unparal-leled horror of the Nazi Holocaust shows what happens when perverted science is allowed to overflow moral

why is, America so splendid, so powerful, so crucial to "whether led by our own margaret Thatcher's world? Unlike she said, the French sels" — an alien bog o "whether led by our own socialists or by those in Brussels" — an alien bog of "restraint and servitude".

We stand together, she said, "on the same hallowed ground". The basic principles of America and Britain had "served as a beacon to the world, lighting the way through the darkest days of the contury" — as precipi-tated by "German imperial-ism, fascist aggression and finally communist tyranny".

Inevitably, in four para-graphs squeezed from a lec-ture 20 times as long, I do her some injustice: but not, I hope, a lot. Her thesis, with copious quotes from Thomas Jefferson, has force and respectability attached. But Compare and contrast as let's try to put it in other you wander through the sub- words. Say, other words from Mrs Thatcher herself as plorable chaos; American Prime Minister, on the wonRevolution, excellent (later, if not quite from the English standpoint at the time). US freedom burnished by "It was clear she was hos-

tile to the whole idea on the grounds of old-fashioned nationalism," he writes in a new memoir of his time with the lady. "I was amazed to hear her utter views about people and countries, especially Ger-many, which were not all that different from the Alf Garnett version of history." What about the democratic effort

self-importance". Maybe she was, in her pomp, "too good" to be Prime Minister of Brit-ain. Maybe she should have been "President of Taiwan or And here the headlines of

the week begin to pulsate, here Ken Clarke and Nick Bonsor and the rest join in: for this, at root, is what it is all about. Is the European way, scarred by a malevolent history, foreign ideas and febrility of character, some-thing the Conservative Party can ever come to terms with Isn't the American way

Maybe Mrs Thatcher should have been 'President of Taiwan or the United States'

which can also be appropri ated as the "English" way, the fount of belief and the future? (Add or delete your

own expletives).
I (like Mrs T) love America
too. It is a fascinating. bustling, inspiriting place. But it is not any longer the country of her dreams or her insulated confection. In no remote sense is it "English". White Anglo Saxon Protes-

decades after 1945? She said:
"They have simply been paying reparations for all the things they did during the war". There was "no question that, if the Germans were returned, they would once again dominate the whole of Europe". A national "unreliability of character".

Urban sees this latterday Thatcher too full of "overweening self-confidence and self-importance". Maybe she pointain correctness, does she remember where PC came from? When she does the "world beacon" bit, has she any idea of how long and how deeply America's politicians think of England?

Take this year's manifesto from the Republicans, the party of "my dear friend Ron-ald Reagan". It is 106 pages long. The word "Britain" is not mentioned anywhere. North Korea, Bosnia, even Cy-prus: yes. No Britain, America is a foreign country, as foreign in its ways and rhythms as any in Europe. Its rich and famous may turn out for the Princess of Wales, fresh off the magazine stand, as they would for a super Trump or Grace Kelly's princess daughter. But that's fleeting celebrity, nothing more. Mrs Thatcher still hangs on the peripheries of that circuit, and loves it. But she, and all those who share her assumptions, confuse the show and the reality. America itself is taking

stock in continuous transi-tion. So is Europe, lecturing the Balkans on brotherhood and the erasure of history, telling Arafat and Netanyahu to face a new future. Fine words. But does Margaret Thatcher think of them when she talks in private about Germany? Do those who follow in her path? Does she remotely sense the pace of change? Perhaps she and they and Alf Garnett would like to come with me to West Ham on Sunday and consider

### Sam Peckinpah, **Martin Scorsese** — and me



Bel Littlejohn

This is an edited version of the Sam Peckinpah Memorial Lecture, Raining Reservoir Cats And Dogs, delivered by Bel Littlejohn to the British Film Institute last May, taken from

HERE is a truly memorable scene in Sam Peck-inpah's movie Now Take It Away Again, the little-known sequel to Bring Me The Head Of Alfredo Garcia, in which an old man, his ears and hands and most of his right leg blown off by a sawnoff Colt .44 triple-action repeater, crawls his way to the shelter of a tub of water, only to find that his left leg. what remains of both arms and a good percentage of his head are all shot off by a man

with a machine-gun.
Violent? Maybe, to the squeamish. Yet it is a scene that is also strangely compas sionate, even poignant the anti-hero of the movie, the unnamed "X", is so enraged by this ruthless act that he takes out his machete and slices the heads off over 80 Mexican bandits in less than 35 marvellous screen seconds. The rest, of course, is perhaps one of the most gentle and profound moments in cinematic history, in a stunning sequence, one of these heads rolls down a slope, knocking over a can of oil. The oil is set alight by a smouldering match, and within the next 17 screen seconds a further 328 men, women and children are burnt to death. The director's use of the telling close-up is particularly noteworthy in some of the "reaction shots" (surprised, outraged, bemused, resigned) of the blazing victims.

Happily, salvation — a kind of Biblical salvation, at once primitive yet strangely up to date — is at hand, in the shape of Maria Schneider, who has tragically lost all her clothes in an earlier accident involving a misplaced safety pin. After taking a wellponsibilities as Avenging Angel by soundlessly consenting to 16 screen minutes of sexual intercourse with "X", the Schneider character murders a further 148 bandits be-fore fellating the dying "X" note of optimism into this otherwise bleak yet strangely eathartic slice of life.

In my opinion, Now Take It Away Again — allusive, plan-

still there are those who, from still there are those who, from their towers of ignorance, stand in judgment on the so-called "harmful effects" of violence on the screen. Do they not realise that movies such as Now Take It Away Again and Tarantino's bril-liant Reservair Does do not liant Reservoir Dogs do not create violence but merely reflect the violence inherent in our society? Why, only five years ago I was witness to an act of this type of violence: a Guardian colleague (male, need I say) had been informed by the chief sub that his leading article had been cut by three lines. He banged the desk with his fist in an act of (ed Karl French), published wholly male violence the like this week by Bloomsbury.

ness again. Pedants may argue that my colleague did not in fact murder eight people in 36 seconds with a sawn-off Colt .44 triple action repeater, but the effect was just the same, or reasonably similar, at least for the desk. So let no one tell you we don't live in a culture of violence, a culture for which films are merely the unwilling messengers. As Mister Pink put it as he shot the kneecaps off the delivery man in that beautifully stylised and strangely beautiful se-quence in Reservoir Dogs: No Way, José. When it comes to a master

of the modern movie such as Martin Scorsese, I speak from personal experience. Just six months ago, my literary agent, bless her, rang to tell me that Scorsese was interested in buying the film-rights for my critically acclaimed Fluffy The Dolphin series of children's books, with Robert de Niro in the title role, and how Marty would like to meet me. Our meeting took place over lunch at the Caprice Demonstrating the outline plot with his knife and my knife, Marty told me how he saw Fluffy as essentially a loner, driven crazy by the immoral mayhem of the big city. At this point, he summoned the waiter. "Scuse me, mis-ter!" he barked. "We need a whole lot more knives!"

HAD originally written the Fluffy The Dolphin series for children, but, as he reached for his chequebook Marty convinced me that Fluffy was better suited to an adult audience, an audience that could recognise the great anti-violent message of the proposed new climax in which Fluffy brutally bludned a dozen hucksters to death on a Manhattan sidebrains out with a shotgun. Of course, when the movie finally appears. Fluffy will not be called Fluffy but Snipes, and he won't be a dolphin but a small-time Italian mobster with a gammy leg and a speech impediment. But the essential integrity of the work — and its author — will not be Away Again — allusive, plan-gent, supple — amounts to one of the 17 greatest Peckin-pah movies of all time. Yet | ney. (Pause for applause.)

### Martin Woollacott warns that unless the Netanyahu government accepts the Palestinian land-for-peace offer, the consequences for the region will be catastrophic

## Eleventh hour in Israel

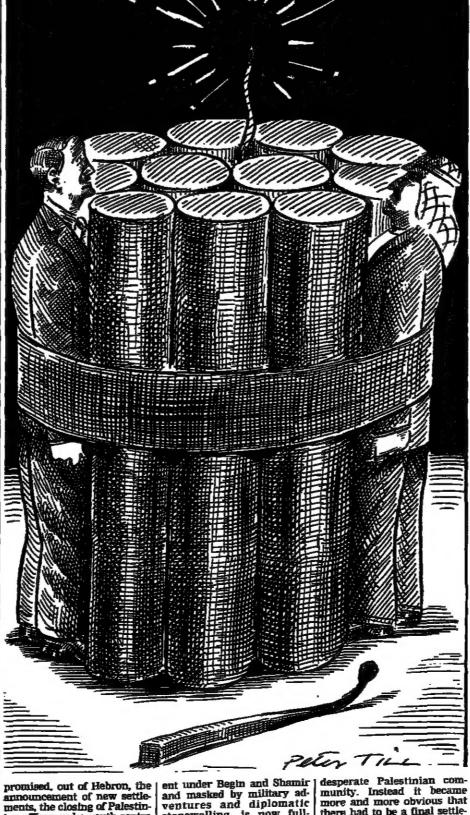
HE illusion that there can be security without justice, with which Binya-min Netanyahu seduced Israelis in the last election. lies shattered in the streets of Gaza and Ramallah. Netanyahu promised Israelis that they could have security, the physical safety they naturally crave after generations in the firing line, and yet pay no price for it either in land or in changes in the political status of Palestinians.

sion is now clear for all to see But the failure is not his alone. It is ironic that in the centennial year of Zionism -Theodor Herzi's The Jewish State was published in February 1896 — Zionism in its Likud variant should persist so blindly in the denial to Palestinians of the human and political rights which Jews in Israel have so vigorously demanded for them-selves. Where Herzl once saw his imagined Israelis chatting in German in Viennese-style cafés, with grateful Arabs in the background, their sons grapple in combat with Pales-tinian enemies. What Netanyahu and his government re-fuse to see, with not a shred of the excuses that can be of-fered for the early Zionists, is that one state evoked another. and until the Palestinian state is as much a reality as the Jewish one, there can be no guarantee of security. Per-haps not even then, but not until then.

When Netanyahu made it clear, during the campaign and after his victory, that he had not changed his absolutely negative position on Palestinian statehood, he all but pulled out the keystone from the arch of peace. If he does not soon radically change that policy, the arch will fall, with ruinous conse-quences for the Middle East and all who live there.

This would not be resumption of the old occupation, or even of the intifada. Neither the practical co-operation which marked the one or the relative restraint which marked the other are recoverable now. Full-scale fighting between Israeli forces and some or all of Arafat's armed units, with or without his approval, is en-tirely possible now, or later, if after some temporary patching up, there is no change of Israeli policy. It would be an unequal war, no doubt, but one terrifying in its results, because, once that kind of blood has been suit all the because, once that kind of blood has been spilt, all the structures and leaders upon which peace could be based would have been swept away. To resume direct military rule over Palestinians, amidst universal isolation, at the possible cost of its hard-won neace treaties with Egypt and peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, and under the full force of American disapproval, would be a catastrophe. There is some hope in

Netanyahu's churlish refusal to see Arafat, then a basty meeting, under American pressure, dressed up as a success, the faltering of the day-to-day contacts on which the peace process as a practical matter depended, the fail great. The bankruptcy of the



announcement of new settle-ments, the closing of Palestinian offices and a youth centre in Jerusalem — these were deliberate signals intended to convey one thing and one thing only: that there would be no state and no Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem Only idiots or amateurs could have supposed that this would not lead, and lead pretty swiftly, to a Palestinian explosion. Unfortunately both are present among Ne-tanyahu's circle of advisers. His own reponsibility is

stonewalling, is now full-blown under Netanyahu. As peace was made with existing Arab states the excuses for the treatment of Palestinians were, in a strange way, stripped away. As long as Is-rael was involved in real or potential international war with Arab states, the question of what to do about the Palestinians could be put off. Begin hoped that he could contract out of the wider war with Arab states, in the process destroying the PLO, and then

there had to be a final settle-ment with the Palestinians which restored something at least of what had been taken from them.

Vladmir Jabotinsky, father of what became the Likud tradition, famously spoke of the "iron wall". This was the idea that after throwing themselves endlessly at the ramparts of Israeli strength, the Arabs would eventually recognise that they were in a position of permanent weakness and would negotiate ac-Likud tradition, only incipi- lace down an isolated and cordingly. In a way that has

including the Palestinians, have negotiated from a posi-tion of weakness. But the sting in the tail has been that, in the end, the Palestinians are still there, still angry, and still dangerous. And an iron wall is costly to maintain. It was Netanyahu who was the prophet of the "easy" ver-sion of the iron wall. He sold a

fable to the more gullible among the Israeli people, dis-tressed that, in spite of peace, Israelis were still dying. This was that "security" could be had, with no price to be paid and no dangers to be endured. The settlements could stay tinians could be denied a state. Seeing the Palestinian Authority essentially as noth-ing more than a defective instrument of Israeli security. he naturally proposed that nothing more be conceded to it, and demanded that it come up to scratch, as if it were a mercenary police force falling down on the job. What emerged then, at the tail end of the Likud tradi-

tion, was a bastard version which held that security could be had without costs or casualties. It did not envisage the full-scale re-occupation of the territories. That would be too expensive in lives and money and there would be diplomatic costs, too. But, by some magic, the Palestinians would go along with not get-ting a state and would take no revenge. What was this magic? The answer is pitiful. It was "peace with security". Having virtually nothing to give to the Palestinians, except some economic crumbs, all that could be promised was to trade off Israeli security for Palestinian security. If you don't hurt us, we won't hurt you, also known as We will hurt you if you hurt us. If wars could be ended like this, there would not be a violent

spot on the globe.

What is so mindless about this approach is its asymmetry. Jews of course need land, a state, self-esteem and pride. But Palestinians - they, of course, can make do with physical safety alone. Israel still has the possibil-

ity, even under Netanyahu, if he will return from cloudcuckooland, to take up the Palestinian offer. The Pales-tinians are ready to make peace on the basis of a mini-mal restitution of what was taken from them. Less than half, perhaps less than a third, of the land that was once Palestinian, and the possibility of erecting on this restricted basis a small state. It is symptomatic of the cast of mind of too many Israelis, Labour as well as Likud, that such an offer cannot been seen as what it is - amazing. unprecedented, almost

Do all Palestinians subscribe to it? Of course not. Do even those who do nevertheless see it as a first step toward other objectives, such as securing a right of return to Israel, or cherish inward hopes that over time demog raphy may change the halance of power in the Holy Land? Of course they do. Yet what is on offer is still astonishing. It is madness for the

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# Prime figure in numbers

ematicians. He was also one of Combinatorics is fundamen-

tal to computer science and the branch of mathematics that deals with arrangements of sets of points, and the counting and classification of objects into types. Its other applications include the design of experiments for testing of drugs and fertilisers in-tended for use in situations involving many variable

He pioneered probabilistic number theory, and was the greatest producer this century of good mathematical prob-lems. He was also an indefatigable problem solver, and the author of over 1,500 papers, more than 450 with coauthors, a measure of his infectious enthusiasm for the

Erdos was born in Budapest where, after 1920, the Jewish community of over 200,000 led an increasingly beleaguered life. The university would only allow at most 5 per cent of the student population to be Jewish, and many Jewish scientists and mathematicians

Erdős, who had been a cher-ished mathematical prodigy as a youth, emigrated in 1934 to work at Manchester Univer-sity. Thereafter he travelled incessantly, often arriving at a friend's house with just a suitcase and the simple introduction "my brain is open".

and attended innumerable

AUL ERDOS, who has died aged 83 of a heart attack, was one of the world's off coffee, amphetamines and most famous math- anti-depressants, and defined a mathematician as "a ma-chine for turning coffee into theorems". Although he trav-elled all the time, he was also one of the finest examples of a remarkable, vibrant Hungar-ian tradition of work in dis-

crete mathematics.
One of his most attractive traits was the ability to formulate stimulating problems. They were often deceptively easy to state, which was part of their attraction. He would often grade them according to difficulty and back up his estimates with financial rewards. The money to pay for them came from his income in fees and occasional mathematical prizes (one. the Wolf Prize, was for \$50,000). But the real reward was the prestige of having solved an Erdos probone winner remarked that he had earned his \$250 at

Indicative of these problems is one he raised and solved (with Gy Szekeres) early in his career. Write the numbers from 1 to 5 in any order. Then three of them will form a sequence that is either increasing or decreasing. For example, in the sequence 4. 2. 5, 1. 3 the sequence 4, 2, 1 decreases. Erdős showed that if (for any value of n) the numbers n-1are written in any order, then n - 1 of them will form a

about 50 cents an hour.

sequence that is either increasing or decreasing. Several thorny problems have solutions due to Erdös that are less than a page. With Atle Selberg he is the author of the so-called elementary

theorem. Prime numbers are numbers that are divisible are 2. 3. 5, 7. 11 and so on).

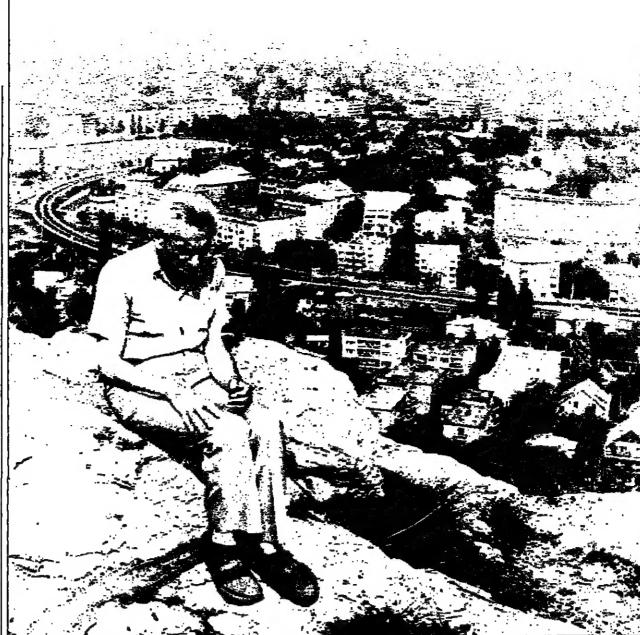
The theorem estimates the number x as a function of x. and was first proved using seemingly unrelated parts of mathematics 100 years ago. The elementary proof uses only direct means, but as is often the case in mathematics the "bare hands" elementary proof remains much harder than the original one.

Erdos's genius was for the problem that requires little mathematical experience to state and only ingenuity to solve. He cared little for the application of his ideas, and remained outside the main currents of mathematics this century, which tended to elaborate and recondite theory building. The fields of alge braic geometry, algebraic topology and functional analysis (the mathematics for quan tum physics) require years of training to enter. Erdös pre-ferred the parts of mathematics that have resisted such elaboration, and did much to

keep them alive. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society and many other national academies, yet for most of his life he never had a permanent address, a cheque book, or paid income tax.

His many friends and coworkers agreed that he more than paid his way through life by the stimulus of the challenges he produced and the

Paul Erdős, mathematician, born



#### Nicu Ceausescu

### Schooled in tyranny



A debauched life . . . Ceausescu after his arrest in 1990

gest and favourite son of the late Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who has died aged 15 of liver failure, led a notori-ously debauched life that ran the gamut from hedonistic despotism to imprisoned symbol of communist corruption. His death was attributed to decades of heavy drinking and hell-raising in which the name Nicu became a byword for excess, cruelty, and terror.

the three children of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu and the heir-apparent until the parents met their fates before a revolutionary firing squad on Christmas Day 1989.

Until the regime fell, Nicu lorded it over Transylvania, with his headquarters in the ancient ethnic German city of Sibiu. The venue for the infamous drinking sprees, orgies and terror campaigns was a fortress in the nearby village of Saliste Paltinis.

When he got bored of the local adolescent girls supplied by his minions for his pleasure, he would take to the gaming tables of Las Vegas. Notable victims of Nicu's indomitable urge to control and humiliate were said to include Nadia Comaneci, an outstanding athletes of her generation who fled Romania

only weeks before the 1989 mother said that Nicu ordered Nadia's fingernails torn out for resisting his advances and that he had raped the gymnast when she was 17. In the chaos of post-revolu-

tionary Romania, Nicu became the hated living symbol of the old regime and was put on trial for genocide, although the prosecution later admitted there was no case to answer. In 1990 a military tribunal sentenced him to 20 years for complicity in genocide, for allegedly ordering the shooting of 90 demonstrators in Siblu during the tumult of December 1989. It later transpired he fled the city in fear for his life

the day before the killings. There followed a saga of and counter-appeal while Nicu was in hospital. allegedly being treated for hepatitis and cirrhosis of the liver. His sentence was commuted to 16 years. But he was released at the end of 1992 and staged a remarkable recovery.
While his defence lawyers had presented testimony that he was close to death, he was now to be seen regularly rac ing his fast cars around Bucharest in the company of young women. By the time the trained physicist was released, the appeals procedure had whittled his conviction down to five years, no

lan Traynor

Nicu Ceausescu, playboy, born

for illegal firearms possession.

Letter

Peter Perry writes: The Jaguar "brought the hitherto exotic David Burgess-Wise in his obituary of Walter Hassan (August 5). I must point out that Salmsons introduced the

twin overhead camshaft lay-out in the early 1920s and all their cars used this feature until the factory closed in the 1950s. It is said that Walter Hassan had a look at the Salmson engine when designing the Jaguar XK. None of which of course, detracts in any way from Hassan's eminence as a great automobile

vast round alien arseholes,

which saucily position them-

selves over the biggest, prou-dest, shiniest buildings in

New York, LA, Washington etc. After 24 hours of teas-

ingly hovering above these phallic monuments, they

open up their sphincters to

dump a stream of shit-from-hell, which first demolishes

the skyscraper below and

then engulfs, destroys and

tropolis around it. That's

In case we've missed the point, the gung-ho US pilots

the day and mankind's repu-

tation as fuckers not to be

messed with, by craftily

ome bottom.

generally messes up the nicely ordered American me-

### John Christopherson

### A modern art of decay

who has died aged 75, was a quiet but talented painter who created a significant niche for himself in modern British art. He was also a collector and connoisseur who felt that despite exhibitions at several renowned London galleries, his achievement had Occasionally the pictures not been fully recognised. veered into an entirely ab-

not been fully recognised. Self-taught. Christopherson stract idiom, one composed contrived a happy, if improbable, marriage between the naive and the sophisticated in I mosaic-like designs and pictohis work. The individuality of graphic compartments in the nared an ecied tic range of influences gleaned from the modern and the an-

cient worlds. Christopherson was 30 when he first began to paint. encouraged by Jean Dubuffet, the French painter, with whom he corresponded. At the time he was working for the Geological Museum in South Kensington, a position he held until 1959 when, after marrying a fellow painter. Anne Watson, he decided to take up painting full time.

The legacy of his former job stimulated his interest in time-worn objects, whether natural or man-made. The granular texture of his paint-ings, created by slowly building up glazes over months or even years, reflected this. What he described as a lifelong obsession with "objects. artefacts and buildings which have been mellowed and transmuted by the hand of feeling - very much in tune with his own depressive temperament - that forms were subjected to the inevitable

hand of natural decay. Nevertheless, typical street scenes, such as House in Shooters Hill Road (1971) seemed to belong to a timeless dream, the tall trees or plumes of chimney smoke suspended in a wind-less vacuum. Chris-House in Shooters Hill, 1971

OHN Christopherson, i topherson's deserted towns painters like de Stael, Poliscapes, reminiscent of De Chi-rico and radiating with jewellike colours, combined topographical memories of the places be knew around his native Blackheath with more abstract symbols and distillations of his visual experience

> or embodying intimate. A recurring element in the street scenes was graffiti: not the angry daubings of disaffection but rather of homage to

with soft geometric symbols

the cultural heroes like Diango Reinhardt and Nicholas de Stael, names that he Christopherson ploughed a lone furrow: be never taught

in art school and missed the ferment of ideas in the art world from the 1960s onwards. As a result he retained, both in his work and in his life, the ethos and manner of the existentialist 1950s, the decade when his ideas and identity as an artist took root. Certainly his closest allegiances - to the post-war Ecole de Paris

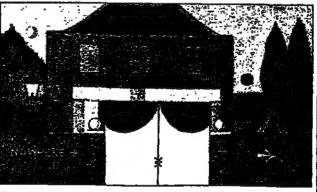
koff and Dubuffet or to St Ives abstractionists like Peter Lanyon. Ben Nicholson, William Scott and Roger Hilton - be-longed to that time. He collected their work too. In his Blackheath home he kept ceramics, modern abstract sculpture, tribal carvings, antiquities and of course postwar painting. John Christopherson was,

however, never isolated. He made almost annual pilgrimages to St Ives. Cornwall, and gallery and auction room cir-

In 1993 Christopherson succumbed to clinical depression which prevented him working, although he did attend his retrospective exhibition at the Woodlands Art Gallery, in Blackheath last December. There seems no doubt that his pictures, described by George Melly as "worth listening to". will grow in stature and speal to an increasingly wide

Peter Davies

John Christopherson, artist and callector, born July 25, 1921; died August 24, 1996



ENGLAND & CO GALLERY

#### Jo Swain

### Soul of the paper

Jo Swain, who joined the edi-tor's office at the Guardian seven years ago and worked as personal assistant to Peter Preston as Editor and Editorin-Chief from 1992 onwards, has died on holiday in Venice.

Peter Preston writes:

HERE are some exceptional people you will always remember, and some sudden deaths which inflict deep, sharp and shared sadness. Jo Swain was one of those exceptional people; and the sadness throughout the Guardian and Observer yesterday was deep and shared

She came to us as her tenth PA or secretarial job (covering everything from shoes to road freight). Newspapers were different and no one were different and no one could quite tell how she would take to the deadline frenzy and intense pressure at the heart of a daily newspaper. But she was a natural fast, dynamic, utterly resourceful, clearly relishing the teamwork that makes a the teamwork that makes a

paper go round.
She worked first with David McKie then moved naturally, inevitably, to work with me. It was not, for either of us, just another job. The paper had become part of her life. She was there at all hours, sometimes far into the night, because she felt part of it. When an IRA bomb wrecked our printworks earlier this year, I shall always remember how Jo suddenly arrived back in the office and, through a nightmare evening, anchored and co-ordinated the triumphant effort

to get a paper out, somehow. In the spring of 1995 she was told she had cancer. She fought it uncomplainingly and with resolution, resist-ing all entreaties to make her rest more than she felt abso-

lutely necessary.
This summer she chose temporarily to come to work with David McKie again on the opinion pages of the Ob-server, and then to stay there as personal assistant to Robert McCrum, its new literary editor. She loved the buzz of a paper. It was the last thing. grey with exhaustion but upright in determination, she

would relinquish. Jo loved Italy, and David McKie and his wife had taken her to Venice — a city she had never visited. She had had two perfect days and her death, from a heart complica-tion, came very swiftly. It means she won't be there for the return match in Italy my wife and I had fixed for No vember. It means she won't be able to thank, as she among them, Caroline Marland, our managing director. But she was herself special; and we shall, with her brother and her close circle of friends, always think of her that way.

### **Death Notices**

### In Memoriam

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 Fax 0171 713 4129

gave Harpo a harp made out

of barbed wire; however

### Jackdaw

Birthdays

Bill Athey, cricketer, 29; Jo-

sephine Barstow, soprano, 56; Philip Blacker, jockey, 47;

Baroness (Tessa) Black-

stone, educationist, master,

Birkbeck College, 54; Barbara

Dickson. singer, 48; Gordon



### **Odd** jobs

TEST the effectiveness of Life preservers in St Louis, from Dunhill Personnel.

\* Walk dogs in Indianapolis. from Account Temps.
\* Verify gate receipts for a travelling rock 'n' roll band, from MSI Services.

\* Direct pedestrian traffic in an office complex in Atlanta. \*Stick wicks inside air freshners in a factory in Atlanta, from Tempo Services.
\* Assist maintenance and inspection technicians on the space shuttle in Valencia,

Dress as bears and monkeys to fingerprint youngsters for Children's Safety Week in

Museum, 48; Denis Lawson, actor, 49; Prof Geoffrey Mar tin, historian, 68; Meatloaf, rock singer, 49; Barbara Murray, actress, 67: The Rev Prof Dennis Nineham, theologian, 75; Ian Plenderleith, Government broker and executive di-rector, Bank of England, 53; Honeycombe, author and broadcaster, 60; Michael Houdirector, Mary Rose Trust, 68.

Hicksville (sic), New York,

Take minutes during Ar-

nold Schwarzenegger's meet-ing with the Summit on

Youth Fitness in Burlington.

the mag of TWA, lists some odd

ads for temporary workers.

Moo support

FOURTEEN farmers who

make up the Somerset Levels Male Voice Choir have released a record in the hope

of winning back beef sales.
The song, British Beef Is The
Best Beef By Far was written
by Ross Young of Stoke St

Gregory, Somerset. The B side, Moo Cow Blues, looks at

viewpoint.

Moo blues in Country Life.

A WARNING about the BSE

Crazy crisis

crisis over 70 years ago

emerged this week from a

magazine based in the West

One of the features in the

magazine, called Science of

BSE from the cows

from Kelly Services.

lihan, director, Horniman

feature of twin overhead cam-shafts within the reach of ordinary motorists," wrote

written by Rudolph Steiner

It says: "If an ox were sud-

denly to turn into a meat-eater, it would fill itself with

stances such as uric acid and

urates," says Steiner. "Now urates have their specific ef-

fects. These are expressed in a particular affinity for the

nervous system and the brain. The result is that if an

ox were to consume meat di-

urates would be secreted. They would enter the brain,

and the ox would go crazy. If

an experiment could be made in which a herd of oxen were suddenly fed with pigeons, it

would produce a completely

If this was spotted so long ago,

why did it ever happen? Reported in the Meat Trades Journal.

IN THIS startlingly excre-mental movie (figuratively as

well as literally) American

civilisation is dwarfed by

mad herd of oxen."

Back view

rectly, large amounts of

all kinds of harmful sub-

and entitled, If An Ox Eats

working out that what is needed to lower the aliens' defences is a virus. Jeff in-fects the mother vessel by docking with it and the virus is transmitted to all the alien

ships, whose force-field im-mune systems collapse. This of course allows Randy Quaid, playing a kamikaze love-missile, to fly up the sphincter of an alien vessel which is opening to crap destruction on some humans helow. He shouts: "Alien ass holes! Up yours!", then explodes and destroys the alien ship, helpfully showing the rest of the earth forces where

who attempt a counterattack the aliens weak spot is . . talk a great deal about how they can't wait to "give it to You can't get more botty fix-ated than that? Mark Simpson gives a differ-ent light on the summer blockthose allens up the ass". However, they fail to penetrate the aliens defences with their hot, hi-tech missiles — even the nuclear-tipped babies — because the cheeky aliens buster. Independence Day, writing in the October issue of

have a force-field hymen pro-tecting them from such un-**Grouch graft** wanted attentions.
Fortunately, Jeff Gold-burn's wily Jewishness saves

1. GROUCHO Marxistn, the theory of comedic revolution is much more than a blueprint for crass struggle: like a red light in a window, it illuminates humanity's inevita-

ble destiny, the declasse society. G-Marxism is the theory of permanent revelry.

The example of the Marx Brothers themselves shows the unity of Marxist theory and practice (for instance, when Groucho insults somebody while Harpo picks his pocket). Moreover, Marxism

is dialectical (isn't Chico the classic dialect comedian?). Comedians who fail to synthesize theory and practice



Bums away . . . Attitude

(to say nothing of those who fail to sin at all) are un-Marx-3. Because G-Marxism is

practical, its acheivements can never be reduced to mere humor, entertainment, or even "art". (The aesthetes, after all, are less interested in the appreciation of art than in art that appreciates.)

After a genuine Marxist sees a Marx Brothers movie, he tells himself: "If you think that was funny, take a look at

4. Contemporary G-Marxists must resolutely denounce the imitative, vulgar "Marxism" of the Three Stooges, Monty Python, and Bugs Bunny. In-stead of vulgar Marxism, we must return to authentic Marxist vulgarity. Rectumifi-cation is likewise in order for those deluded comrades who think that "the correct line" is what the cop makes them walk when he pulls them

5. Although not entirely lacking in glimmers of Marxist insight, socialist (sur)real-ism must be distinguished from G-Marxism. It is true that Salvador Dali once

there is no evidence that Harpo ever played it. 6. Above all, it is essential to renounce and revile all comedic sectarianism such as that of the equine Trots. As is well-known, Groucho repestedly proposed sex but op-posed sects. For Groucho, posed sects. For Grouce, then, there was a difference between being a Trot and being hot to trot. Further, the Trot slogan "Wages for Horsework" smacks of reform, not revelry. Trot efforts to claim A Day At The Races and Horsefeathers for their tendency must be indig-nantly rejected; in truth National Velvet is more their style.

Marxist twists to the Groucho Brothers. Discovered on the marxism tistserver by Michael

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk.fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR SER.

**Emily Sheffield** 



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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

## Finance Guardian

### **BT spends** £1.1bn to **buy French** connection

Scholas Barmister

RITISH Telecom is to complete the last key part of its European strategy by investing more than £1.1 billion in a fledgling French telecom-munication venture effectively controlled by the French conglomerate Com-

pagnie Générale des Eaux.
The move, announced yesterday, signals the end of BT's long search for the French partner it needed to give it a nan-European presence when the main continental markets are opened to full competition in 15 months' time.

BT has already established joint ventures in Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands eden. All are or will be seeking licences to challenge the incumbent monopolies.

BT chairman Sir lain Vallance said: "This agreement positions BT as the only telecommunications company capable of a pan-European as-sault on the market."

However, analysts said that BT had chosen an expensive way into the French market. It is is getting a 25 per cent stake in Cagetel in return for injecting £1.1 billion cash and its BT France business.

CGE, whose main contribution to the new venture will be its controlling stake in SFR, France's number-two mobile phone operator, will end up with a 50 per cent stake and the top two jobs. Sir Peter Bonfield, who

took over as chief executive at the beginning of the year, said BT would be the lead pected Cegetel to capture

### BT's stakes abroad

- 35pc Turbu Valufort -- 33.2cc

about 15 per cent of the French market within 10

Cegetel's other sharehold. ers would be Mannesmann, the German engineering and electronics group which owns one of Germany's top three mobile phone operators, and SBC, the US regional phone group formerly known as South Western Bell.

The Cegetel deal is not ex-pected to be finalised for sev-eral months because of the complexity in establishing the exact contributions of each of the shareholders and in simplifying the ownership

Afred Mockett, managing director of BT's global busi-ness, said Alcatel Alsthom, the French electronics group, would sell its 20 per cent stake in SFR, while Vodafone, one of Britain's leading mo-bile phone operators, would increase its stake from 16.5 to

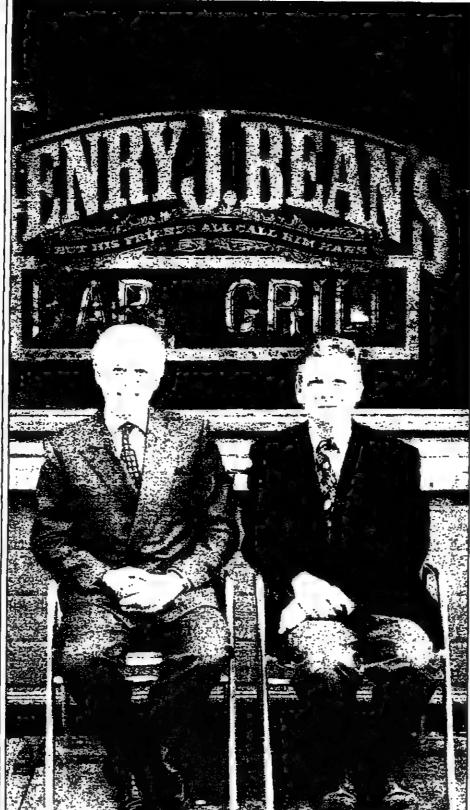
about 20 per cent.
Philippe Germond, SFR's
managing director, said he
had little doubt that Cegetel would get a licence as a longdistance operator because the French government had indicated willingness to issue them to companies which with the necessary financial strength. He and Sir Peter were confi-

dent that Cegetel would suc-ceed in the bidding for the rights to use the national fibre-optic network owned by SNCF, France's state-owned railway

would initially concentrate on expanding its mobile business and absorbing BT France, which was largely in-volved with data trans-

When it had secured the necessary licences, it would then move into the business market, offering a range of services including those of Concert, the BT/MCI joint venture catering for multinational companies' telecom

The last phase, which could be some years away, would take Cegetel into the top end of the residential market in France.



Facing the music . . . Stephen Gee (left), My Kinda Town's finance director, and Peter Webber, managing director of the restaurant group, blamed a 21 per cent fall in profits in France for static half-year profits of £3.2 million

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

### Prodigal **British** go deeper into red

Sarah Ryle

PECULATION that Suoyant consumer spending will suck in imports and worsen Britain's trade gap was renewed yester-day as latest figures showed

the deficit deteriorated to \$1.2 billion in July. This brought the gap so far this year to £8.5 billion, compared with £5.9 billion a year ago. Although total exports in July rose by 0.5 per cent to £13.8 billion, total imports outpaced them, rising to

Treasury minister Angela Knight seized on an improvement in exports in the three months to July and, despite the weaker performance in European Union markets, said Britain was well placed to take advantage of an im provement in continental

Trade Secretary Ian Lang highlighted the growth in ex-ports of most manufactured goods, especially cars, where sales rose by 9.5 per cent in the three months to July.

However, Jonathan Loynes, an economist at HSBC Greenwell, pointed to the impact of Britain's economic recovery He said: "Imports still appear to be suffering from the stock overhans, but should pick up later in the year as consump-tion and investment strengthen,"

A worsening trade position with the EU, which makes up about two thirds of the total, was largely to blame for the overall July deterioration.

The deficit with the EU wid-£500 million, while the gap with the rest of the world narrowed from £900 million to £700 million. Officials had originally esti-

mated a smaller non-EU trade gap for July, raising hopes of a faster improvement than occurred. However, yesterday they estimated that the £500 million level was

of US aircraft. But the volume of trade excluding erratic elements and oil showed that exports were and imports rose by 2.5 per cent to a record monthly

#### Notebook

### Fund chiefs on perilous ground



Edited by Mark Milner

F THE Labour Party hoped for unalloyed support from Britain's biggest shareholders for its proposals to improve corporate governance vesterday's discussion paper rom the National Association of Pension Funds will have put it straight.

indeed, the NAPF's director-general, Dr Ann Robin-son, will deliver the message in person when she addresses a Labour conference fringe meeting next week.

As in a number of areas, Labour's proposals for improving corporate gover-nance are still far from specific. But the NAPF appeared to set the tone of future discussion yesterday by saying it would oppose the introduc-tion of legislation (unless it was to "clean up" the Companies Act) and would not favour the introduction of a capital tax designed to encourage longer term invest-

It also set its face against compulsory voting at annual meetings, the idea of "stake-holder" companies, rejected suggestion that shareholders force companies to pay excesof research and development and long term capital pro-jects. It also expressed "grave reservations" about shareholders being given the right to vote on individual direc-

tors' pay packages. The NAPF, whose members speak for one in three of all shares, argued that change can take place within estabreached in August.

They said that £1 billion of that up, the NAPF wants comthe overall £9.5 billion gap panies to force all directors to this year was due to imports stand for re-election regularly, to limit service contracts to one year and to restrict the level of golden handshakes by stopping pay ments once directors find new

> Labour has correctly scented that aspects of corporate governance, particularly those relating to "fat cat" salaries, are probably electorally popular. It now has to ensure it keeps the big shareholders on side

The NAPF will need to tread carefully too, if it wants to avoid anything more than the tidying up of existing law. It would not be wise to give the impression that its agenda is all that counts.

### BT's number

BRITISH Telecom looks to be paying a steep price to achieve its long held aim of establishing a foothold in the French mar-ket. No doubt the company will have breathed a sigh of relief that it has finally got a deal, any deal almost. It has. after all, endured abortive negotiations with rivals, and at tunes official obstruction.

The speed with which nego tiations were concluded be-tween the British company and Compagnie Générale des Eaux, which was also looking at a rival arrangement with AT&T. Unisource, indicates the pressures on BT to get an

agreement. In immediate terms, however, all that deal amounts to is that BT is paying £1.1 billion for an indirect stake in France's second mobile phone group. It will have boardroom representation but neither management nor shareholder control of the new venture.

equation, BT will be in a posi-tion (though scarcely pole position) to take advantage of the opening of the French telecommunications market in 1998. The French connec-tion will also enhance its credibility as a pan-European

company.

The big unknown is whether the venture will get the use of the national communications network owned by SNCF, the state-owned French railways. Bids are in

They should be crossed very tightly. Failure to do a deal with SNCF could leave the new venture lacking an adequate backbone network and facing the costly prospect of creating one by leasing lines, quite probably from its main competitors.

BT needed to be in France. It has got there. But it has only been able to do so at some expense while its future there will depend heavily on the management skills of

#### Marked failure

ARLIER this week the banking industry's working party on mone tary union reckoned that the City could survive, indeed or not Britain signed up for the single currency. That Square Mile certainly does seem to be winning the battle of the financial centres.

The latest evidence comes from the Frankfurt-based state central bank of Hessa. Yesterday it reported that the number of bank headquarters, and bank representative offices in Frankfurt fell last

Not for the first time the bank was critical of the Frankfurt market for its timidity in responding to change in the industry. It has long wrankled that London's derivatives market, Liffe, for example, beat Frankfurt's DTB to the punch in developing derivative contracts in German debt.

Frankfurt is trying to repair some of the damage through a Centre for Financial Studies, headed by for-mer Bundesbank president Karl Otto Pohl. It will have it work cut out now that some of Germany's premier banking names have already voted with their feet and opted to shift more of their activities to London.

There is more, it would appear, to running a successful banking centre than a strong

Charles Brady, said it would

spend up to £1 billion. The company has already

been linked with a bid for ESN, the manager of the

electricity supply industry pension funds, which was

ater bought by Foreign and

City analysts welcomed

the news, pointing to the complementary nature of the

two businesses.
In particular, Invesco's

American business is largely institutional, while Aim en-

However, sources close to

Invesco said last night that

talks were still at an early

in the retail market.

### access service hits rival traffic

Regulator says superhighway

phone service and reduce its cost within the next few days or face regulatory action, writes Nicholas Don Cruickshank, the

Death State

telecom regulator, said yes-terday that high-capacity integrated services digital networks (ISDN) were the first step on the road to the information superhighway for many small businesses. schools and individuals. He had boped BT would

use a restructuring of its ISDN2 tariffs to kick-start more widespread use of so long to intervene.

DRITISH Telecom has been told to remove discriminatory elements from its new, high-capacity large anti-competitive effects and the second seco fects on customers and competitors alike".

Most of BT's rivals have to use part of its local network to deliver their ISDN services to customers. Offel believes BT's latest tariffs unfairly encourage people to take their whole ISDN package from BT.

A BT spokeswoman said that the group had told Oftel and its competitors about the proposed changes to ISDN charges months ago and was surprised it had taken Mr Cruickshank

PPOSITION to a

national minimum wage intensified yes-terday after it became clean that some of the most power ful unions will be upping their demands from 14.26 an hour to £4.41. The unions, including Uni-

son and the NUM, have proposed a formula based on official average earnings. The £4.26 figure was based on 1995 data, which yesterday were updated. A minimum wage at this level would affect more than 4 million workers, or 20 per cent of the labour force. The TUC has not yet formally adopted a specific wage floor and some other unions have suggested a lower rate, of up

Unions up minimum-wage claim

A spokeswoman for the TUC said last night: "The £4.26 proposal from Unison and the NUM was passed at Congress and as it is a formula based on earnings levels, it would rise in line with the new wage figures."

Any attempts by the unions

to win a commitment for a specific level from the Labour Party at next week's conference are likely to be quashed aware of industry's resistance to a statutory basic wage. Reacting to the new \$4.41 level, the Institute of Direc-

tors said: "The higher the level, the worse the impact on jobs. A minimum wage would hurt the very people it is sup-

A minimum wage study published today by the independent Centre for Economic Performance criticised the way the unions arrived at the higher level, arguing that the new £4.41 was "peculiar" and The author of the report

David Metcalf, argued that £4.41 would affect 20 per cent of the workforce, which was out of line with levels set by other countries. He said Britain could lift 10 per cent of the labour force, a

bigger proportion than in earn £706 a week.

with a minimum wage of Official earnings figures published yesterday showed women to be more likely than

men to be badly paid. While average weekly earnings for all adults in full-time work were £352 in April (a 4.2 per cent increase on a year ago), omen earned £283 per week Excluding overtime, hourly earnings rose to £8.72 with men's hourly pay at £9.39 and women's at £7.50.

The survey showed that top-paid men earn £1,733 and are managers, while the best paid women are doctors and

struction accounted for an esti-

mated 25 per cent of all under

Arrangements for the ex-

change of information with the Inland Revenue, the Contribu-

tions Agency and the Environ-

ment Department had already been made. "It's virtually im-

possible for any business to op-

erate successfully without

coming into contact with one of them," said Ms Woods.

The hotline numbers are 0500 550 400 and 0500 550 450.

declarations.

## Invesco in mutual

### lan King

■NVESCO, the independent fund management group, said yesterday that it was in "business combination".

which controls almost £60 billion of funds, said no definitive agreement had been reached, adding that a further announcement would be made "in due

speculation that Invesco, one of the biggest independent names in fund management, is seeking to buy Aim for. about \$1.8 billion

£1.2 billion).

Invesco has made clear its stage and indicated that any deal likely to be a merger desire to complete a signifi- rather than a takeover.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

France 7.7450 Germany 2.2950 Greece 364.75 Hong Kong 11 76 India 55 77 Ireland 0.9475 Finland 7.0375

Singapore 2 15
South Africa 6.85
Netherlands 2 5775
New Zealand 2 1625
Norway 9 8450
Portugal 234.50
Saudi Arabia F

### Clarke urges action Hotline to brand VAT-shy cowboys against dirty money

Neberd Thomas Economic Correspondent

HE Chancellor, Kenneth Ciarke, yesterday called for a worldwide campaign against money-laumdering after the release of a report pointing at Britain's tough legal and regulatory regime as a role model for other nations.

Mr Clarke warned Com-

monwealth finance ministers meeting in Bermuda that increasing cross-border cash flows posed a threat to all member countries.

"International criminals seeking a safe harbour for their criminal proceeds are no respecters of international borders," he said. "They will always locate the weakest links in the anti-money laundering chain. This is a con-cern that can only be addressed on an international

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — set up by Western nations to promote action against financial crime Said recent measures taken by Britain to reduce the number of hiding places for money raised through criminal activity had set a new world standard.

"The UK system for antilaundering is an impressive and comprehensive one," the paper said FATF pointed in particular to a legal requirement on UK financial institutions to report suspicious

Mr Clarke urged the fi-nance ministers to tighten controls on banking systems and introduce tough penalties. "Countries which have not yet put the necessary protective measures in place will find themselves attracting the wrong sort of business, not only from fraudsters and crooks, but also from criminals that properly regulated centres have turned away." Ahead of the annual meetings of the World Bank and Inter-national Monetary Fund in Washington next week, Mr Clarke called on the multina tional institutions to lead the

fight against the financial

arm of organised crime. He

ment of regional watchdogs to

also argued for the establish-

track dirty money.

CELIA WESTON on a Customs trap for the construction industry tax cheats

ISGRUNTLED customers of cowboy builders were yesterday given a new way to wreak revenge through a Customs and Excise telephone hotline set up to catch VAT cheats in the construction industry.

Rival legitimate builders and the public are expected to join the trend to shop cheats under a two-year pilot scheme supported by the 4.000-strong Building Employers Confeder-ation, the Federation of Master Builders and industry trade associations.

The initiative follows a move in August by the Inland Revenue and Contributions Agency, which deals with national insurance, to clamp down on tax. NI payments and the self-employed status of many building contractors. Ian Deslandes, director gen-eral of the BEC, said: "There's a very marked overlap be-

tween companies evading tax

and companies doing very shoddy work to the detriment

of customers. People who cheat

honest builder, whatever their size, is on our side.' He added that the Office of Fair Trading received 50.000 complaints a year about poor work by builders.

Customs will spend £2 mil-lion over two years to collect estimated £75 million in an estimated £75 million in VAT from evaders caught through the hotline or identified by six teams of specially

### The victim

RS Z, the widow of a builder, needed repair wo done under her insurance policy, atter a chip pan fire gutted her kitchen and bedroom. The ingurance company insisted shi use the builder who tendered the owest estimate. That builder who confided to Mrs Z Ihat "VAT was only for mugs", did work which was a disaster. Mrs Z was so incensed she gave Customs his name, and that of two workmen, the registration number of a vehicle and details of other on tax cheat everybody. Every | jobs he had done.

recruited inspectors. Penalties | project to tackle the shadow range from payment of back economy. VAT evasion in con tax to imprisonment. Mr Deslandes said BEC

nembers had long complained about rogue builders gaining competitive advantage by fid dling turnover figures to avoid reaching the £47,000 VAT registration threshold, or under cutting tax-compliant companies. "The public too often opts for the lowest possible price,

Lis Woods, Customs' head of compliance, said the initiative was part of her department's

### The rival ---

R X, a senal builder, sub mitted a £15,000, plus £2,625 VAT, tender for work ngs with a block of garage take six weeks. He later dis overed the job tad gone to hullder who had quoted £16,000 cash. He believe do the job and, on passing the site, noted vehicle registramones and trading names. He passed the in

# KipperWilliams Acme Builders

### talks with US Aim cant acquisition for some time, and last month the company's chairman,

talks with Aim Management. one of America's biggest mutual funds, about a possible But the UK fund manager

The news follows intense

(£1.2 billion).

Belgium 47.22 Canada 2.0825 Cyprus 0.6990 nmark 8.8575

Colonial.

# ALEX BRUMMER in Washington on the complex manoeuvrings to secure vital funding

# IMF to cut poor nations' debt

sus, the manag-ing director of the International Monetary Fund. declared yesterday that the debt reduction plan for the world's poorest nations was now a "done deal" despite the failure of G7 countries to agree on sales of IMF gold reserves.

The IMF intends to make good on its share of the \$7.7 billion (£5 billion) loan plan by seeking bilateral contributions from its membership and by dipping into the reserves of its own loan facility for the poor-

This compromise, which should secure funding for the debt reduction plan until 1999. is intended to avert a clash at tomorrow's G7 meeting in Washington between Germany which opposed the gold sale
 and the US, Britain and other countries in favour.

The sale of some 5 per cent of the IMF's gold reserves was first proposed by the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and would have been used to create a trust fund both for the reduction of multilateral debt of the world's poorest countries, as well as secure the long-term fiment Facility.

ment Facility.

Without gold sales, or another form of finance, this facility will have insufficient funds to meet its obligations in the period 2000 to 2004. After that, the IMF believes it will be self-financing.

Speaking at a press conference here yesterday, the US treasury secretary. Robert Rubin, expressed satisfaction that the multilateral debt reduction plan would go ahead but made it clear that the US would not be prepared to provide bilat-eral assistance until such time as gold sales had been

approved. Finance ministers, who are descending on Washington for the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, are determined that the debt plan be up and running this autumn.

The debt reduction proposal results from a study set up by the World Bank president, James Wolfensohn, in the summer of 1995 in an effort to de fuse one of the issues which has long divided the IMF and World Bank from the wider de-

Under the plan, funds used by poor nations for debt repay-ment to the IMF. World Bank and bilateral creditors, would | the global economy.

ICHEL Camdes | Enhanced Structural Adjust | be made available for education, health care and poverty

> In a statement issued here last night, Oxfam International applauded the IMF's decision to press ahead without gold sales, arguing that the commit-ments made by the Bank and Fund were "important

> However, Oxfam expressed frustration that earlier hopes that the initiative would include an agreement by the Paris Club of official creditors to reduce debt by 90 per cent as against the 67 per cent currently available - had failed to win support.

In addition to launching the debt initiative, the IMF also m-tends to use this year's annual general meetings to build industrial country support for a huge increase in its share capital. presently standing at \$193 billion. Mr Camdessus said yesterday that a doubling of the share capital was required to \$386 billion. However, he thought it more likely that the major shareholders would approve an increase of between 50 and 75 per cent of

would just be sufficient to keep

pace with the increased size of

the current quotas

Bank takes more money from the Third World than it gives out

THE World Bank's new lending reached a record \$19 billion (£12 billion) in the last financial year, according to the organisa-tion's annual report, eleased yesterday.

Despite this robust per formance, analysis of the report shows that after interest and other repaybank is taking in more funds from Third World countries than it lends.

these net transfers of around \$1.7 billion in the 1995-96 financial year are inevitably in its favour as countries which no longer need World Bank lending pay back old loans.

To keep transfers positive would require "geometrical every year. The negative net | are increasingly used by \$765 or less.

IBRD/IDA lending South Asia \$2,933m \$2,740m Latin America \$4,438m

transfers are seen by critics; the bank to fund assistance ments by developing as an alternative way of antito the poorest countries country borrowers, the alysing the bank's overall through the International

role in development. The report shows that the bank has made progress in The bank argues that cutting administrative costs, a development which

> costs, bringing the adminsitrative budget down to \$1.2 billion. Overall the Bank generated a profit of \$1.2 billion - surpluses which with per capita income of

Development Association

South The Rose Bark Ashall Report, 1996

and the scheme to help highly indebted countries. Under the leadership of James Wolfensohn, the not exercised the integrity bank has sought to create a required of a registered indinew range of products devidual because of his "delib-In the past year some 3.6 signed to support the pri-per cent was shaved off vate sector as official across, bringing the admiral opment finance falls away. In the last financial year

the bank lent \$6.3 billion to the poorest countries, those

### imro places ban on fund maverick

Sarah Whitebioom

MAVERICK fund manager, whose apparent overvalulations of rich people's portfolios has triggered legal action against US investment bank Morgan Stanley, was yesterday thrown out of the City.

The news is a further blow

to the image of the invest-ment industry and its con-trols, and comes in the wake f the multi-million pound Morgan Grenfell fund management debacle in which Peter Young is alleged, among other matters, to have over-valued funds.

Geoffrey de Sibert, whose whereabouts are unknown, was banned by Imro, the industry watchdog, in a signal that such activities will not be tolerated. It found he had erate" overvaluation of an offshore fund he managed — of which Morgan Stanley Bank Luxembourg was adminstra-

tor and custodian. InterCapital Asset Management (ICAM), the company through which he managed funds, went into liquidation in April 1995 with millions owing to investors.

Morgan Stanley, led by Sir David Walker — the former chairman of the Securities and investments Board, the City's chief watchdog — de-nies any impropriety, despite its relationship with Mr de Sibert and his fund.

In addition to its Luxembourg involvement, Morgan Stanley's London operation lent money to high net worth individuals and vehicles controlled by them to invest in ICAM's Global fund.

But the institution insists it had no reason to believe the valuations were incorrect and plans a vigorous defence against a £30 million legal action being brought by investors in Luxembourg, due to be heard in November next

year. They claim they would not have put cash in, had it not been for Morgan Stanley's

It is understood there were about 25 investors from the US, the Channel Islands and France in the Cayman-based fund — which was valued at about £80 million at its peak There were no UK investors since it was an unregulated investment and could not be marketed here. There can therefore be no claims on the City's investors' compensation scheme. But Mr de Sibert was registered by Imro and so fell under UK jurisdiction. Each investor - many of

whom were personal contacts and friends of Mr de Sibert had to put in a minimum of £200,000, although the average investment was £2 million. According to Inno, Mr de Sibert — a former director of Kleinwort Benson - overvalued the fund by up to 25 per cent of its value between April 1994 and March 1995 This caused some investors to be disadvantaged but others, who left during the period of inflated valuation, benefited from Mr de Sibert's creative calculation. In addition, Imro charged Mr de Sibert with carrying out speculative foreign exchange dealing on behalf of the fund — in clear

breach of its articles of

Also yesterday, Imro fined the City-based Newton Invest-ment Management £85,000 for breaking rules relating to cli-ent money accounts. Newton, which backed down from demanding a full tribunal hear-ing, agreed to three charges. The most serious relates to its failure to prevent client accounts going overdrawn - a breach of Imro regulations which are aimed at preventing a firm "using money be-longing to one customer to satsify other customers'

liabilities Newton reimbursed £63.247 of interest incurred by customers on their overdraits and was ordered to pay £34,000 in costs.

### strategy to spirit world Pauline Springett | though he declined to confirm what they had been. | campo. This suffered another poor six months, with sale

**Guinness offers a new** 

on recovery recipe that mixes whisky, gin and gambling

■HE alcoholic drinks industry, rightly or wrongly, enjoys a glitzy image. Until recently, Guinness lived up to this by pro-ducing sparkling growth. The company's performance of late has been much duller. however, particularly in the spirits division.

Strong growth is more difficult for Guinness because its established territories of the UK and western Europe are mature markets. Fresh brands can always be launched, but in the grand scheme of things they add little to the bottom line initially and take years really to take

Selling to more overseas markets is also clearly an option for the longer term, but this can be a hit-and-miss affair, is likely to produce slow growth and exposes the com-pany to the vagaries of territories with which it may be unfamiliar.

Tony Greener, Guinness's chairman, has had what can only be described as an interesting summer as the City speculated on how he might quickly put a bit of zest back into the company's performance. The main rumour was that Guinness was poised to make a £13 billion bid for the food and drinks group Grand Metropolitan. Another was that the brewing operation would be demerged.

Nothing has happened and yesterday Mr Greener was anxious to close down the rumour mill. He conceded that the company had considered several options, al-

Dan Athirmon

"Our main thrust is to grow the business organically," he said, adding that the moves which had been considered would have "destroyed substantial chunks" of share-

out there at the price and size to tempt Guinness. After all. as Air Greener conceded, several previous purchases have since proved rather expensive. He is anxious not to make the same mistakes again.

One such disappointment is the Spanish operation, Cruz-

### Guinness

SIDE Harke	rg-ar a	0.001
Share price	448.5 ¥	бр
Workforce	2	1,000
Interest cove	r	7.2
1/2 YEAR.	3	%
Seles	2,048m;	egened LO+
Pre-tax profit	387m	+6
Earnings /share		٠,
Bladd and dalar are	4.50	

Six months 1996

Jardine Fleming activities

and report back to the two

shareholders, Fleming and

the trading corporation Jardine Matheson.

Jardine Fleming chair-man Alan Smith is retiring

poor six months, with sales down 4 per cent. The main reason for this was further decline in the Spanish economy. Guinness can scarcely be blamed for that, and it is doing its utmost to get the best out of Cruzcampo, having streamlined its opera-Acquisitions are not being ing streamlined its opera-ruled out, but there is little tions. As Mr Greener said, it would not be sensible to sell Cruzcampo at the bottom of

> Guinness spends about £500 million on marketing each year — an indication of how important brands are to the company. Of course, the company is also planning to develop new products and to improve its systems and infrastructure. But the key is brand strength.

the market.

How Guinness handles its spirits brands will be particularly crucial because it is this side of the business, not brew-ing, which has been under the most pressure. Total sales of the spirits division rose by a mere I per cent, and trading profit fell by £2 million to £255 million.

Guinness is finding the UK spirits market distinctly tough and has decided to hit back. Its key brands are Bell's whisky and Gordon's gin. The main rivals are drinks the customer believes are acceptable substitutes and which are cheaper. Guinness has been countering this with price cuts and offers. That is

Guinness Increased its spirits prices in the UK by about 4 per cent earlier this year. The company is also cutting down on its promotions. Sales of Gordon's and Bell's have dipped as a result but the company is deter-mined not to buckle, even in the run-up to Christmas, "even if that costs us again in terms of volume and share".

Fleming Investment Man-

agement and Jardine Flem-

ing Asset Management, two

companies savaged by regu-lators in Britain and Hong

Kong last month after ir-



Colin Armstrong, had been

booking dud trades to cli-

ful trades to his own. In

March, four brokers working for Jardine Fleming's

Hong Kong securities arm

had been sacked for this sort of "rat trading".

Hong Kong regulators ex-

ents' accounts and success

### News in brief

### **BA Regional plans** 40pc pay cuts

BRITISH Airways Regional, which operates most of BA's do-mestic services, is understood to be asking its cabin staff to accept pay cuts of up to 40 per cent to cut costs at the lossmaking business. Under the proposed pay cuts, according to a document leaked to the Labour Party, a steward with seven years' service would be paid £7,920 a year instead of £11,710. Senior cabin service directors would get £18,694 instead of £22,870. A spokeswoman for BA Regional confirmed pay cuts were being considered as a way of reducing cabin crew costs but no decision had yet been taken.

### **Electricity help for poor**

ELECTRICITY consumers on low incomes are to be given stronger protection in new codes of practice approved by electricity watchdog Stephen Littlechild. The 56 new codes cover services for customers with prepayment meters, services for the elderly and disabled, and codes relating to customers with payment difficulties. They follow concern that customers on low incomes are overcharged compared with others. — Chris Barrie

### Tile profits slip

REDLAND added to recent bad news from the construction sector by disclosing half-year profits down 42 per cent to £95 million and the loss of 700 jobs. But Robert Napier, chief executive, said. reconstruction of the building materials company was expected to yield savings of £15 million over the full year and £25 million next year. "Sales of ready-mix concrete have begun to look better, sales of roof tiles have yet to do so," he said. — Tony May

### Lloyd's rebels regroup

REBEL Lloyd's of London Names launched an action group to carry on the fight against paying for losses on the insurance market. The United Names Organisation (UNO) hopes 1,000 Names who have not accepted a £3.2 billion settlement offer will join. They will be asked to pay a subscription of £4,500 over three years towards an estimated £4.5 million for legal costs, said co. chair David Harris. — Pouline Springett

### **Buyout boom tails off**

THE management buyout boom has run out of steam, with buyouts held back by sellers' excessive expectations, according to accountants KPMG. The last quarter's deals were the lowest since the beginning of last year, falling from from £1.1 billion in the previous three months to £820 million. — Roger Course



ERCHANT bank

Robert Fleming has cleared out the top management of its scandal-

hit Hong Kong joint ven-ture and appointed a trou-



ture and appointed a trou-ble-shooter to supervise all activities in the colony and mainland China. A new man Alan Smith is retiring early, after 24 years with the company; also taking mainland China. A new early retirment is Robert man Alan Smith is retiring regularities came to light. Robert Fleming group chief executive John Manser warned: "I would Last month it emerged



Robert Fleming clears out management of Hong Kong joint venture

supervisory board will | Thomas, who had been | hate to lead anyone to be- | that a Jardine Fleming fund meet quarterly, review all | chief executive of Jardine | lieve that this business is | manager in Hong Kong.

never going to have any

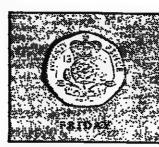
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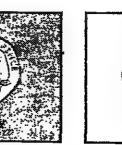
prevent rogue trading or other misseasance, he said,

but it could detect problems

problems in future."







pelled Mr Armstrong from

its register and ordered

Jardine Fleming to pay

£12.3 million compensation

to affected clients. Mean-

while. British regulators fined Jardine Fleming £400,000 because its Hong

Kong operation had been

paying commissions on some business contrary to agreements with clients.







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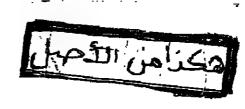
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General



# ban on Macing Candle glows in Parewitch tri maverick Cesarewitch trial

Chris Hawkins

ANDLE SMILE had his Cesarewitch odds cut to 8-1 from 14-1
after staying on
strongly to land the Roofs
United Handicap at Goodwood yesterday.

John Reid made virtually all the running over the two Stoute-trained colt who powered-in by six lengths, but did not incur a penalty for the Newmarket stamina test on October 17 in which he has

Joe Mercer, racing man-ager to owner Maktoum Al Maktoum, commented: "All he does is stay. But he's improving all the time, and will definitely go for the Ce-sarewitch. The result shows what tremendous form Michael's horses are in - he's had nine winners in the last

home in the J.S. Humidifiers

Handicap to initiate a double for the stable.

Next Tuesday is a big day

for Stoute, of course, when Dazzle, favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, defends her unbeaten record in the Shadwell Stud Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket for which 12 were declared at yesterday's forfeit

Dazzle looked in a class of her own when scorching to a five lengths victory in the Cherry Hinton Stakes in July her latest run.

Criquette Head sends over Pas de Reponse from France to take her on, while the un-beaten Italian filly Hambye is also expected to make the

trip.

Lord Carnarvon has paid \$12,000 to reinstate Arethusa who was originally entered. but taken out after she disappointed in mid-summer. Her subsequent second in the Lowther Stakes, and victory formight."
Don Bosio, under Richard
Quinn, had earlier bolted made a mistake.

Back at Goodwood, Tagula

### Diamond Dance can get Dettori off to a quick start at Haydock

FRANKIE DETTORI, who dock this afternoon after his St Leger whip suspension, can be quick off the mark with Diamond Dance (2.00), writes Chris Hawkins.

This filly, related to the nseful Storm Canyon, showed promise on her debut at Sandown recenty when running on from the rear to be sixth to Ruwy. That was over a mile and she should be suited by an extra two furlongs here.

Dominelle (2.30) looks Handicap. She was beaten a short-bead by Merrie Le Bow in a 24 runner affair at Nottingham last time and can go one better from a favourable draw.

Roger Charlton tried resumes riding at Hay- Dayville (4.00) on the allweather at Wolverhampton in July with spectacular results — the Dayjur filly scoring by six lengths. She is no world-beater

but the opposition in the Stanley Snooker Nursery could be within her

capabilities.
Those high class stayers
Moonax (4.30) and Court of Honour meet in the Stanley Casino Conditions Stakes. Neither has run for some time but preference is for worth an interest in the competitive Stanley Credit ground is not too firm rain is apparently forecast.
At Folkestone, I like the look of Perpetual (3.20), while Plan For Profit (4.40) has a good chance at Redcar.

won the Group Three Charlton Hunt Supreme Stakes, wearing down that game front-runner Wizard King in the final 50 yards.

Tagula had not run since contesting the Irish 2,000 Guineas in May, when fifth to Spinning World, so the result, which suggests the three-year-old milers are a cut above their middle distance. year out miners are a car above their middle-distance counter parts, could be con-strued as a boost for Ashka-lani in tomorrow's big race at

Ascot. Ashkalani has beaten Spin ning World three times this season, and had just over a length to spare over Tagula in the French 2,000.

"He's missed most of the season with problems, and it's a great shame bacuse he could have won some decent races," said Ian Balding. trainer of Tagula who goes for the Prix de la Foret next. Sir Mark Prescott, trainer

of the runner-up, intends to run Pivotal in the Prix de Abbaye at Longchamp on Arc day, but is worried how he will handle soft ground if the weather changes. All Pi-votal's wins have so far come on fast ground.

The major stumbling block. however, will be Anabaa, the awesome French sprinter unbeaten in his six races this

Pat Eddery rode a far from tactically sound race on Bold Oriental in the Vulcana Gas Appliances Nursery, but it looked good from the stands as he swooped through to catch Love Has No Pride well inside the final furlong.

he would fail to get a run on Michael Tabor's colt. Tabor's good sprinter Dane-

hill Dancer has been retired for the season, but will be kept in training next year. Eddery later completed a double, taking his seasonal tally to 160, when turning the Air Conditioning Maiden Stakes into a proce



Classic look . . . Dazzle bids to strengthen her 1,000 Guineas claims in the Cheveley Park

### Eddery got a gap on the rails in the nick of time after looking for a long time as if Mellottie retired after game victory

MELLOTTIE brought down the curtain on a memorable career with a last-gasp triumph at Pontefract

Mary Reveley, the gelding's trainer, was not present to witness the popular success but had promised that the 11-year-old would be retired

Handicap and was sent off a 12-1 chance, but Mellottie demonstrated his customary resolve to produce a spirited late surge to lead close home and defeat Skillington by a immediately if he won.

Mellottie was the first and

Folkestone

He looked to face a tough task in the Wakefield Euroonly foal of Lottie Lehmann, ley. He progressed from bumpers and hurdle races to port Screwdriver Rated show himself to be a useful performer on the Flat. He notched 16 victories on

the Flat, three in bumpers and one over hurdles, scoop-

3.20 Perpotoel (r

4.20 Hr Bros

ing almost £250,000 in prize

taining a broken nose.

According to the national president of a local league club shouted, "Yuplea ol ref-eree tu i go wansait wantaim

Redcar

### **SPORTS NEWS 13**

### **Rugby League**

### Referee has a broken nose for his trouble

Andy Wilson in Lac

day's fatal riot at the stadium here, the venue for tomorrow's one-off Test between Papua New Guinea and Great Britain, continues to dominate the news bulletins in PNG.

In a speech to parliament yesterday the deputy speaker Ben Okurro denied instigat-ing the trouble, which started in the main stand. "It is true that I was in the grandstand," he said, "but I was totally un-aware of the commotion and I realised there was trouble only when somebody's body, which was apparently thrown from somewhere near the en-trance, landed on my back."

Okurro had been accused by Dick Mune, the governor of the Southern Highlands, who declared Wednesday a day of mourning after four Mendi Muruks fans were killed. Mune claimed too that several hundred Muruks fans were missing, possibly held by the Chimbu tribe who had supported the Kundiawa War-riors in the cup final and subsequently blocked the road back to Mendi.

"It was everybody for himself in Lae and nobody knows who is missing," Mune said. "Now the people of Chimbu and Mr Okurro must pay for the deaths and the damage to

property."
The Lions have been assured there will be no viowhen the Muruks and Warriors fans are expected to stay in the hills. But a reminder of the explosive potential of any match in PNG came with yesterday's news that Tony Kumi, the referee of Wednes day's tour opener in Mount Hagen, is considering retirement after being assaulted at the end of the game and sus-

newspaper, the Spectator, the

ol wait man na Yuplea i no laik sapotim mipela long win," and punched the official. For those with rusty pidgin English, that translates as the tourists and cannot even help us to win".
Food for thought for the

Australian referee Stephen Clark, tomorrow's official, as 12 penalties to four and disallowed four Great Britain tries. In Goroka on the 1990 tour the pressure was too much for the New Zealand referee Dennis Hale and he helped the Kumuls to a 20-18 win, their only success over Great Britain in seven meetings since 1984

The Lions coach Phil Larder was assistant to Malcolm Reilly on that trip and has named three survivors from Goroka, Bobbie Goulding, Denis Betts and Daryl Powell, a substitute. But the side's average age is 23, with two players completely new to inter-national football, the St Helens right-wing Joey Hayes and the Wigan prop Terry O'Connor, and six more Great Britain Test debutants.

PNG's Australian coach Bob Bennett has named arguably their strongest ever side under the captain Adrian Lam, who will play behind a huge pack including the Canberra Raiders pair David Westleigh and Bruce Ma-mando and the Muruks prop Raymond Karl, who was given a lengthy ban for his involvement in a riot in Minj last year but recently had an appeal upheld on the ground of mistaken identity.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Ble (Las), Keş (Mi Hagen), Bai (Hulli, Tela (Las), Gees (Mi Hagen); Gene (Hull KR), Lass (Sydne CR, capt); Karl (Mendil, Palyo (Cunborra lens), Brondbent lens), Betts (Auch

### Haydock card with guide to the form

**3A** Regional plan

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10pc pay cuts

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REAL VILLE

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03050 RASHFUL BRAVE (42) (D) B Baugh 3-9-12

03050 RASHFUL BRAVE (42) (D) B Baugh 3-9-12

03050 RASHFUL BRAVE (42) (D) B Baugh 3-9-11

03050 RASHFUL BRAVE (42) (D) A Baugh 3-9-11

03260 PHRAM SILK (17) (D) H PAGE 5-9-11

10-66 PURPLE BREADRES (23) (B) B Baugh 3-9-1

10-66 PURPLE BREADRES (23) (D) F Brandson 5-9-5

05-050 A BAURASH (25) (D) T Baughan 5-9-5

0500 A BAURASH (25) (D) J Baughan 5-9-5

0500 ORBING (25) (D) Hauf 4-9-4

0500 CRARGHARM (25) (D) J Baughan 5-9-5

2300 ODERLE (50) (D) Hauf 4-9-3-8-3

2300 ODERLE (50) (D) Hauf 4-9-3-8-3

2300 ODERLE (50) (D) (D) (D) (D) (B) R MAKÉRIA 4-8-15

(D4-30 MIRRIT HARMONY (25) (R Hannon 3-8-1) 'ile profits slip

Joyd's rebels regrow

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30050 OTTO E MEZZO (40) M Policies 4-9-7
401010 TRACEABELITY (22) S WRIGHTS 3-9-7
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41240 EAGLE CALIYON (22) (D) B Hashary 3-9-4

TOP POME TIPES Chross Star 6, Rex Blend 7, Calder King 6

Bottlags 5-1 Circus Star 6-1 Sugar Mrl, 7-1 Rex Munch, Secret Service, House Of Riches, 8-1 Calder King, 1-1 Trace-British

3,3	O STANLEY LEISURE PLC DREAM SHEE HANDICAP 1- CARE	1
401	\$14100 MAPLE BAY (13) (D) A Balby 7-10-0	G Faultmer (5) 16
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405	654-505 DEE-LADY (7) W Turner 4-9-9	D Serventy (7) &
406	DOZDZ POMDNA (340) P Makin 3-9-8	Pat Bridgey 10
407	200660 BLAZE OF SORIZ (6) (D) R HENDON 4-9-5	Il Husban 9:0
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406	441052 HIGH PREMIUM (7) (D) R Falley 8-9-2	A College 12
410	5-00008 ELITE HOPE (34) C Egenon 4-5-2	
411	D-01611 CLADYS ALTHORFE (12) (0) J Eyre 3-0-0	
412	251 JURIAHRAH SUMMET (17) A SINWERT 3-5-0	
418	350-340 DILAGORES BACK (96) (BF) Mrs J Cocil \$-8-13	
414	000000 RAMOG WALTZER (13) (ID) () Nicholia 4-6-10	
415	542200 FLAG FIEN (20) Martyn Monto 5-8-7	
416	202300 DUICE VALERTING (15) (0) R Hollenhead 4-5-5	Filmon (III 15
417	952200 NECAPEN ROCKS (SPA) (20) Capi J Wilson 3-8-2	GCwier4
418	\$16058 MISTER WOODSTICK (17) (D) M Jarvis 5-6-1	B Davie 14
	COM TIPS: Jameston Senson 7, Charles Althorpe 7, Haids 6	
	es 4-1 Gladvic Althorna, 5-1 Jamesesh Sunsal, 8-1 Plakis, Pomon	T. S. Silver, Drawnway, B. S.
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Between Dencer, 10–1 Mapte bay.

Courageon Dencer, 10–1 Mapte bay.

PORE CALIFORNIA - GLADYE ALTHORMS Lod close home, best impulsive Air a mea.

22 of 25, bit 19 (Doccaster in bits, GS-Fm)

JUMMARAH SUSSETT Lad over 41 out, driven cat, best Pagel Splendour a set; (Linglish 71, GS-Fm)

JUMMARAH SUSSETT Lad over 41 out, led 11 out, best Don't Ger Caught Er (Sandown 71 hop, GS-Fm)

BAKOR Prominent, ridden 2 out, led 11 out, best Don't Ger Caught Er (Sandown 71 hop, GS-Fm)

All Manchany over 11 out, edged left insi britishing, ran on, bits a head by G Factor (Windowr im GT

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40 PERMINISTRA (199) CD R Charles 9-0

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EM GOOD DAY (18) C TROMSON 8-4

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TAP ON TOOTSEE Chested (seaders with 40 out 7th of 9, bin 28, to Selmestion (Southweld 2m hop, a.w.)

 A Derby trial may be added to Epsom's Spring meeting.
 April 23, which has been restored to the fixture list next year.
 The Derby meeting will be on Friday and Saturday with the Sunday fixture moving to August. Blinkered for the first time — FOLKESTONE: 2.20 Senate

Swings, HAYDOCK: 2.30 John's Law, 3.30 Elite Hope; 4.00 Cherokee Flight, REDCAR: 3.10 Reinhardt; 4.40 Danka.

Results

GOODWOOD 2-30 (1m): 1, 804.D ORIENTAL, Pni Eddery (5-1); 2, Love Has, No Pride (8-1); 3, Morthern Sam (9-1), 7-2 kay Patigmon. 10 nn. Nt., 35. (N Callegham) Tota: 55.50; 52.20. C.10, C.30, Dust F. E22.00. Tric: 55.50. SS. CSF CS9.38. Tricash C321.87. Acoust. Irgges ESZ1.87.
3.00 (79): 1, DON BOSSO, TOURN (8-1): 2, Carmarthen Bag (25-1): 3, Camilty (6-1): 9-2 (av Acory Ping. 14 ran. 25, 24, M Stoutel Tote (7.00, 12.50, 12.00, 16.80, Deal F: 105 70. 7 to 105 75.00 CSF 1127.27. Tricast 10.074.57. NR: Shadow Casting

RACELINE

fav); 2, Asterita (9-1); 3, Halanitaia (9-4). 6 ran. 8, 3K (M Sibute) Tote: £2.90; £1.20, £3.70, Dual F: £9.10, CSF £14.89, NF; Muse. 4.00 (7f): 1, TABULA, K Darley (4-1): 2, Witzard King (5-2); 3, Thrilling Day (12-1). 2-1 fav My Branch. 9 ran. Hd. 6. () Balding) Tota: £5.60; £1.90, £1.70, £2.60, Dual F: £9.50. Trio: £33.30. CSF. £14.20. 17g: 150-34 USF. 1, 14-34.
4.30 (1 fm 25); 1, FLBIORE WEST, T Culint.
(5-4 fsv); 2, Renzo (2-1); 3, Apeche Lee
(33-1), 9 ran. 3, X (P Cole) Tota: £1.90; £1.30.
£1.20, £3.40. Dual P £2.50. Trior £23.50, CSP:

Muslim. 5.35 (1m 17): 1, KOATHARY, D Griffiths (5-2): 2, Sews-td (7-2): 3, Pay Homago (13-2) 9-4 fav Roy, 9 ran 5, 1. (L Cottell) Tole: 26 00: 1.90, 1.180, 0.1180, 1.91: 1.500. Tric 17.80 CSF 511.88, Tricast 246.63. ACKPOT: \$3,418.80. PLACEPOT: \$72.60. QUADPOT: \$3.40. PONTEFRACT

2-45 (57): 1, BOWLERS BOY, G Parlim (14-1): 2, Captain Garat (4-1 tay): 3, New S Bonswaa (5-1): 4, Tropical Banch (14-1). (18 rgn. 3, K. 18, L) Cunn) 10c. 220.40: C3.50. C1-80. C1.20. C3-40. Dual F C69.20 Trio (47,20 CSF. C74 16 Tricant C323.03

2. Poter Flight (12-1); 3, Tayreer (10-1), 12 ran. 25, 15. (Dust F: E187.20, Tric: E114.70, CSF: £126.63, NF: Kernof. 12-10, 12-10, 15. (Dust F: E38.0, Tric: E7.50, E1.10, E2.40, (2m. of 1.10 yets Halle); 1, \$44.04; 22, 16. (Dust F: E88.0, Tric: E7.50, CSF: (Dust Fill); 3, Lear Denoter (11-4 lav); 10 ran. 6, 10 (5-4 lav); 2, 16. (Dust F: E88.0, E7.50, E8.0); 12-10, CSF: (C40.0, Dust F: E22.0), Tric: E7.50, CSF: (C40.0, Dust F: E22.0), Tric: E7.50, CSF: (C50.0, NF Palace of Gold.) 1730 ETAIN, UST; 25.22.
6.20 (1m 27); 1, LADY OF LESSURE, 6
Barterell (5-2); 2, No Clicken (13-8 inv); 3,
Sinkhop Sen; (12-3), 8 ran, 8, 8 (Mrs J Cecil)
Tota; 13.60, 51.40, 51.40, 52.00, Dunt P. 52.70,
CSF; 27.18.

C.40. Dual P. (22.90. Trio: E21.90. GSF E34.09. MR Palaces of Gold.
3.10 (2m 9.10/ph. Hdfo): 1, SARBA-TIAN, R Garriny (6-4 fav): 2, Vintage Red (6-1): 3, Ladie Leader (12-1), Sran, 2, 6, M Hammond) Tole. (22.30; E1.50, E1.40. Dual F: C4.90 CSF: 29, 17.
3.40 (2m Ch): 1, BEAUCADSAM, P Wegont (9-1): 2, Belline (11-4) i-lav): 3, Mechali Prisco (11-4) i-lav): 7, mr. 7, nl. (M Barrica) Tole: E3.90; C2.90. C2.20. Dual F (5.40, CSF: E3.30; C. 4.10 (3m 110/ds Hdfo): 1, VALIANT DASH, G. Lee (5-1): 2, Twin Feilin (4-1): 3, Tough Test (6-4 fav), 4 rnn B. 12 (4 Goldle) Toles (A.90, Dual F: C8.30, CSF: E18.42, NR: Bourdonner. Boursonner.
4.40 (2n: 4f 110yds. Ch): 1, TIGHTER
BUDGET, M Moloney (13-8); 2, Barderoe
(11-10 lav): 3, Kincardine Bridge (9-1): 5
ran, Diet 21 (Mrs. H. Sayar) Tote 12-37;
Cl.O. Cl. 20, Dual F. 52. 20. CSF, CL50 croft Boy
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### Sepeng at centre of South African race-rigging row

Julian Drew and David Beresford find evidence of administrative 'fixing' involving the country's top 800m runners

governing South African athletics has been trying to rig races involving some of the country's top runners.

The Guardian has obtained a copy of a draft contract which Athletics South Africa (ASA) allegedly tried to per-suade Hezekiel Sepeng, the Olympic 800 metres silver medallist to sign. It includes undertakings that he would not break the national record except at meetings staged by an oil corporation, Engen.

The document was prepared for the signature of South Africa's athletics supremo Bernard Rose, the chief executive officer of



Snooker

Clive Everton in Motherwell

and reach the Regal Scottish Masters semi-finals at the

Civic Centre here yesterday. O'Sullivan, a 5-4 winner

when the pair met in the Suntory Asian Classic semi-finals

in Bangkok this month, led by

a frame and 54-0, but Ebdon

responded with a break of 55

VIDENCE has ASA, as well as the athlete.

emerged that suggests the federation on gold in Atlanta, refused to sign the contract. But one of his main rivals, Marius van Heerden, the then South African 800m record holder, is believed to have signed a similar document. The draft contract was al-

legedly presented to Sepeng by ASA in April, three months before the Centennial Olympics. The document states that Sepeng should not race against Van Heerden over 800m except at specified venues: the Old Mutual SA Track and Field Champion-ships: the three Engen Grand Prix meetings in Pietersburg, Pretoria and Cape Town; and the Pepsi All Africa International meeting in Johannesburg. It also declares that Sepeng

will not attempt to break the South African 800m record except at the three Engen meetings. The agreement specifies various payments for competing in these events and a bonus schedule for specific time-based performances.

Clause 3 of the contract stipulates: "It is agreed by the parties that Hezekiel may race the 800m in other permit neetings, but that he will not attempt to break the South African record and that he will not race against Marius van Heerden over the 800m

'Should ASA feel that Hezekiel has made an attempt on the 800m record (or he has in fact broken the record), then this agreement will be null and void and Hezekiel will repay to ASA any monies that have been paid to him in terms of this agreement."

The contract goes on to give an undertaking that ASA will sign similar agreements with

Ebdon takes full toll of O'Sullivan lapses

O'Sullivan, when 13, beat Ebdon, then 18, in a pro-am, and Ebdon vowed: "You'll

never beat me again." But

when they became profession-

als O'Sullivan won their first

six meetings. In Ebdon's view his 16-14

world championship semi-

"I should have won the second but I didn't nail him," O'Sullivan in 13 attempts. said O'Sullivan "Everything" O'Sullivan missed two rouses.

try's other Olympic 800m ath-lete, Johan Botha. A later clause stipulates

that the parties to the con-tract will keep it "strictly private and confidential at all times" and its contents "will not be divulged to any third party for any reason It is understood that, when

Sepeng was invited to meet ASA to discuss the contract, Rose told him that he could not bring any advisers. Se-peng refused to sign anydiscussing it with his coach, "JP" van der Merwe. Botha also refused to sign. But Van Heerden, who at

the time was without a man

ager to advise him, apparently did sign, having just broken the 25-year-old South African 800m record. Rose denied the existence of tioned about it. "There is no contract between ASA and any athlete which says he must not break records," said the ASA chief executive. "Nobody can stop an athlete from

breaking records with a

When he was confronted with a copy of the document, with an ASA letter-head, a clearly flustered Rose said: "A piece of paper that is not signed by Hezekiel Sepeng has nothing to do with anything you are talking about. He said it was merely a "starting point for negotiations" with Sepeng. He said a contract had since been signed with Sepeng which had satis-

fied all parties. Mthobi Tyamzashe, the director general of the Depart-ment of Sport and Recreation, amounted to "a serious viola-tion of the principles of fair-

ness in sport". He added that "in the next few days" ASA would be given a chance to explain the draft contract. "We will then

runs of 77 in the fourth and 71

break of 92 in the last after

O'Sullivan's 86 had accounted

"I won't let it bother me,"

said O'Sullivan. "I'm already

for the seventh.



Silver lining . . , on a dreadful day Padraig Harrington shot a seven-under-par 65, a course record. in the European Open at the K Club near Dublin

### Harrington warms the cockles

David Davies in Dublin sees an Irish rookie on a roll break the course record

the first round of the Smurfit European Open at the K Club. The rain intensified during the afternoon, slowing play to a crawl, and the leaders remained those who had been erately wet in the morning.

Given the conditions, it was little surprise that the leaders were an Irishman and a Swede, respectively Padraig Harrington and Nicias Fasth, O'Sullivan missed two rouboth accustomed to extremes ETER EBDON, the world he did after that seemed to go tine blacks: one leading to Eb-No. 3, displayed consisten-right. We've played a lot of don's winning 64 in the third. of weather. Harrington's seven-under-par 65 was a cy of the highest quality to times but that's the best he's the other when 47 ahead in beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2 ever played against me." course record, beating by one ot the one set last year

William Fotheringham

NTRIGUE and bike racing

have always been close companions. Under-the-

saddle deals, formal and in-

formal, financial and merely

mutual back-scratching, are

part and parcel of daily life in

a stage race. Should Alex Zulle of Switzerland win the Tour of Spain when it fin-ishes in Madrid on Sunday,

he will owe his victory as much to internal politics in

cycling as to the strength in his 28-year-old legs. Zülle starts today's final

Cycling

ILLOWING black famous victory over the There have been seven top-clouds and driving Americans in the Walker 20 finishes in the 16 events rainstorms plagued Cup. In the intervening 12 since and he is a strong conmonths he has won over tender for the Rookie of the £233,000 and he lies 11th in Year award, being some the Volvo rankings. If this is £4,500 behind Scotland's Raysomething of a puzzle to those who saw him as only an averagely talented amateur, it is a complete mystery to the man

> At the start of his career as a professional golfer Harring-ton, a qualified accountant. made an appraisal of the job

ing the cut in his first eight | day that he had not changed it | nicliff for example, currently touraments and then not only | at all. "It's all a matter of tim- 63rd, will have that event in getting into contention in the ninth but going on to win the differently now. I've got a

Spanish Open.

There have been seven top Twe got 20-30 yards more length." mond Russell

Harrington has, to a degree, emulated the late James he went to bed a short hitter and woke up a long one. As an amateur. Harrington got away with being relatively short because so many comhe was about to enter, drew petitions were played in run-up a business plan and set himself a first-year target. "I courses. But most profes-thought it would be nice." he sional golf is played on park-

ing the ball." he said. "I do it

He used it to his advantage yesterday. In the first round of this event last year he thought he played well and yet he took 77. "I could hardly make the carry to the 18th fairway then," he said. "But today I flew the bunkers 355 yards out, which is a massive difference." The hole measures 518 yards: Harrington covered what was left with a seven-iron and holed from 40

In the race of the rookies. Russell is not that far behind at two under, and this is the said yesterday, "if I could get land courses, and the stage of the season where the into contention once or twice Irisiman found himself tour's undercurrents start to and, in the process, hopefully outguined. Roger Chapman.

A year ago Harrington was

In fact he has done substanhis team-mates celebrate a tially better than that, mak
and, in the process, hepathy, outgether. Sounds of the top 55 in the rankings get the t

feet for an eagle.

his sights after an opening 68. For those further down the rankings this is a time of deep anxiety. Only the top 115 keep their players' cards, and good performances are desperately

only three more counting events, including this one. Yesterday Michael Jonzon, who is 119th, and Michael Welch, 128th, will have been considerably cheered by their 68 and 69 respectively, knowing as they do that one decent cheque at this stage of the year may conceivably rescue

required given that there are

an entire career.

• Four members of Europe's beaten Solheim Cup side shook off their woes in the opening round of the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. Scotland's Dale Reid shot a Marie-Laure de Lorenzi all on 69, behind the leader Marie

#### chance to snatch the frame with a 62 clearance to the pink. Ebdon also had decisive

### Zülle rides the back-scratchers' backs



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PAGEONE

distillery near Segovia knowing he has to hold on to one man, his fellow Swiss Laurent Dufaux, who is some four minutes behind after winning emean stage the entire team stage the entire team of the segovia knowing heart yesterday's stage here. Dufaux is convinced that, had Zülle not received considerable assistance from other teams on yesterday's stage through the Sierra de Gredos mountains, he himself would now be wearing the race lead-er's yellow jersey. Zülle's ONCE team domi-

nated the first two weeks of the Vuelta and, when Miguel Indurain pulled out a week ago with bronchitis, victory looked assured for the Swiss or his French team-mate Lau-

play all their Super League games and cup ties at Bound-

ary Park next season. The club are expected to leave Wa-tersheddings, their home for more than a century, and move in with their soccer

neighbours Oldham Athletic

Chris Law's survival into the

knock-out semi-final round of the World Championship of Match Racing at Dubrovnik

depends on both his and Australian Peter Gilmour's

results in the last two stages of the round-robin, writes Bob

Fisher. Law, who must win

his next two matches to pro-gress while Gilmour loses his, lost to both Russell Coutts of New Zealand and to Gilmour

yesterday in tricky, shifty winds and now has one less

set a highest-break world re-cord in beating India's Deven-

dra Joshi in the quarter-finals of the world championship in

Bombay, writes Clive Everton. The Englishman, who set the

previous best of 713 during

the British Open last Febru-ary, had a run of 753 in his

2.391-821 victory over last

victory than Gilmour.

Sailing

enean stage the entire team except Zülle were hit by a stomach bug. Yesterday none was at his side when Dufaux attacked on the Puerto Ser-ranillos, some 40 miles from the finish. But, bizarrely, a number of teams with no apparent interest in preventing Dufaux from winning seemed willing to make the pace behind to prevent him from

gaining too much time.
"Sixty per cent of the riders in the race are mercenaries."
expostulated Dufaux's manager Miguel Moreno as the

of helping Zülle was Tony Rominger, a fellow Germanspeaking Swiss — Dufaux is francophone — who gave Zülle help on Monday when his lungs gave out at the end

of a Pyrenean stage. Although Rominger denied the allega-tion he was at Zülle's side for most of the final climb. Another team named by Moreno was Euskadi, who are funded by a consortium of small businesses from the Basque country. Their man-

Other squads, however, such as the American Motorola team, are out to take ad-

vantage of ONCE's weakness and pay off old scores. Their Italian Andrea Peron, who was one of the few riders to assist Dufaux yesterday, ex-pressed great satisfaction at the discomfiture of Zille and his team. Today the two wheeled politics will continue over two climbs of the 6,000ft Navacerrada outside Medsid.

● Indurain will not defend his world time-trial title on ager went on television to ex- October 10.

### Sport in brief

### Cricket

The former England fast bowler Harold Rhodes yester-day resigned from the Derby-shire committee after an in-vestigation at the club's County Ground headquarters. A special emergency meeting was held after members handed in an eight-page petition requesting an inquiry into rumours that Rhodes's conduct towards the coach Les Stillman might result in the Australian's

Stillman, who has been with the county for only one season, helped guide Derby-shire to second place in the County Championship, their highest finish since they won the title 60 years ago.

### Hockey

England's Kathryn Johnson, Tammy Miller and Jo Thomp-The world No. 1 Mike Russell Taminy Miller and Jo Thomp-son, who played for Britain at the Atlanta Olympics, have joined the captain Jill Atkins in telling Maggle Souyave, the England coach, that they are no longer available for international selection, writes Pat Rowley.

Rugby League Oldham Bears look certain to | year's runner-up.

### Rowing

### Searles split to go solo

pending the completion of a proposed stadium. Christopher Dodd

HE Searle brothers.
Greg and Jonny, have broken their partnership. The 24-year-old Greg plans to take up single sculling in hope of a medal at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.
"It has been a tough designation of the sydney of "It has been a tough deci-

"It has been a tough decision not to row with Jonny," said Greg, who with his brother produced one of the most dramatic finishes of the 1992 Olympic Games in winning the gold medals in the coxed pairs, and won bronze in Atlanta in the coxless fours. "I am taking a step into the unknown." into the unknown."

The Searles have rowed in the same boat since they were in the British eight in 1990 and have won world or Olympic medals every year since 1991, including the world coxed-pairs title

"I really appreciate what a good man Jonny is to have alongside you in a boat. The

British eight has really missed him. If you examine the record since we got together, no British crew open event in Atlanta, for the chance to scull for Brit-ain in the 1997 world chamain in the 1997 world cham-pionships. "If I can't beat Haining I'll be wasting my time." Greg said. "Haining might as well give up now," said Jomy, who also plans to compete interpretable in the has won a [heavyweight] medal that did not include either us or Steve Redgrave or Matthew Pinsent." Greg. who is seeking

sponsorship to take him to Sydney, added: "My next four years should be my best four years. Physically, I can do it. Technically, there's a lot of work to do."

Steve Gunn, who has resolved the Search size. coached the Searles since their schooldays at Hamp-ton, will coach him. The im-mediate aim is to beat Peter

mediate aim is to beat Peter | "I'm not going to make a Haining, the 1993-95 light-weight world champion | months yet."

As for the Atlanta gold medal winners, Pinsent said last weekend that he would definitely continue rowing, and his partner Redgrave said at a Leander Club Olympic celebration.

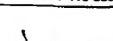
internationally in the

single sculls next summer

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potland

in Georgian ;

## Merson back in the England fold

PPLYING fhoroughly Christian principle of welcoming back a lamb who once strayed. Glenn Hoddle has recalled Paul Merson to the England squad for the World Cup qualifier against Poland at Wembley on Wednesday

Two years ago Merson underwent a rehabilitation programme for drink, gam-bling and drug problems. The fact that the 28-year-old's selection is no real surprise, considering how well he has been playing for Arsenal this season, says everything about the strength of character he has shown in shaking off the tearful, bleary image he pre-sented to the world shortly before Christmas in 1994. Paul has come back this eason leaner than ever and performed extremely well," Hoddle explained when he announced the squad in London yesterday. "That's the reason I've brought him back into

with other situations.
"But I'm glad he's put
things right. It's a great example for people not in the public eye who are going through similar problems. It's all credit both to the lad and the people who stood by him and

the squad, it's nothing to do

It is also a reward for the Football Association's tolerant attitude towards Merson and especially the faith Gra-ham Kelly, the FA's chief ex-ecutive, had in the player's ability to pick up the threads of his footballing career once he had completed a course of

He is in the squad because Hoddle has lost Steve Stone, out for the season at Nottingham Forest, and Darren Anderton, the injury-prone Tottenham winger who is facing yet another groin opera-tion. If Hoddle had any lingering doubts about Merson's form they surely vanished with Wednesday's excellent goal against Borussia Mon-chengiadbach in Cologne in the Uefa Cup.

some goals from all posi-tions," Hoddle pointed out, "but he's also worked extremely hard defensively, which has helped his all-

Merson last played for Eng- Marson will do well to win a felt he hadn't had enough



. . Hoddie, the England coach, feeling the chill in London yesterday as he gets ready to announce his England squad PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

land in May 1994. It was Terry Venables's second game in charge and Greece were easily beaten 5-0 in a friendly. The Arsenal man won the first of his 14 caps as long ago as September 1991, when Graham Taylor picked him against Germany at

With David Beckham making a strong case for retention, especially after his excellent performance for Manchester United against Rapid Vienna in the Champions League on Wednesday, and Steve McManaman, who like Robbie Fowler missed the qualifier in Moldova through injury, available again,

place in Hoddle's starting line-up. But should England suffer another spate of withdrawals after the weekend programme his chances will be enhanced.

Another Arsenal man,

David Platt, is back in the squad after injury, but there is no place for Tony Adams, Merson's club captain, who has just declared himself an alcoholic. Adams was England's inspiring leader in the 1996 European Championship but has only just returned to the Arsenal side after another knee operation.

This, rather than his per sonal problems, is the reason for his omission now. "I just senior games," said Hoddle. I teo does win his first can he "This fixture has come a little too soon for him." Tactically, however, with

England's new coach opting for a three-man defence plus wing-backs, Adams is in danger of being left behind. As if to emphasise the way things are shaping up, Hoddle has included Dominic Matteo, Liverpool's 22-year-old Scot-tish-born left-back.

Matteo's recent Premiership performances, and in particular his contribution to last Saturday's 5-1 win against Chelsea, have clearly impressed Hoddle. "This kid's been in superb form," England coach observed. On an anorak note, if Matwill be only the fifth England player whose name ends with the letter "O". The others are Atyeo, Shellito, Dorigo and

Dominic Mattee, who was spotted by Liverpool's then manager Kenny Daiglish and joined the Antield staff when he was 16, to be given his debut by Graeme Souness in 1993, said he was "shocked and surprised" by his Eng-land selection. "The gaffer [the current manager Roy Evans] took me aside after training and said: 'Congratulations'. I said: 'What for?' He said: 'You're in the England squad.' I couldn't believe it.

Old Trafford on Wednesday.

No doubt the speed and inge-nuity of United's attacks did

much to unsettle Rapid at the

back but the Austrian cham-

pions' supine attitude meant

that from the outset a home win was virtually guaranteed. Vienna were about as ani-

mated as Rigsby's cat of the same name in Rising Damp. Manchester United should

have won by more goals but, with points the priority, the failure of Ole Solskjaer in par-ticular to take more than one

of the chances that came his

way, this was a minor irrita-tion. The 23-year-old Norwe-

gian is linking well with Can-tona and Ryan Giggs and this

### The squad

### Strike ballot for PFA

members

COOTBALL LEAGUE members of the Professional Footballers' Association are to be sent ballot forms today perience of the Bulgarian striker Emil Kostadinov. seeking support for strike action in the PFA's dispute Not that the experience of the Bulgarian sweeper Trifon Ivanov counted for much at with the League over television revenue.

League officials, however, believe strike action will be blocked by a successful chal-

lenge in the courts.
The PFA assistant chief executive Mick McGuire claimed further talks were fu-tile because no progress had been made in four meetings and insisted the ballot was "the only way forward". But the League spokesman Chris Hull said talks had been "progressing" and accused the union of ignoring financial realities and pursuing a policy that would harm its me The dispute centres on the

of its regulation by which the union was entitled to 10 per cent of television income The League's deal with BSkyB, for live coverage of

Nationwide League matches, is worth £125 million over five years and the union, which received £550,000 under the David Beckham, by no previous deal, would have received £2.25 million this year had the League honoured the agreement.

The European Commission

is to take action unless Uefa changes its allegedly "too strict" broadcasting conditions. Television companies which broadcast Uefa matches have complained they do not have exclusivity rights, and they particularly contest Uefa's sub-licensing conditions which, they say, clash with their own interests.

### **Dourthe of** spitting stranger to controversy. Banned for one match last year by the then France coach

**Wales accuse** 

David Plummer

ALES will today de-cide whether to ask France to take disciplinary action against the centre Richard Dourthe after an alleged spitting incident during Wednesday's international in Cardiff.

The allegation was made by the Wales fly-half Neil Jenkins concerning a set to in the first half after Dourthe had late-tackled him. The centre was also in the middle of a dispute in the second period after being accused of stamp: penalties which almost cost ing on his opposite number Leigh Davies.

Dourthe was suspended for a month last season by the French Rugby Federation after being caught on camera stamping on the head of the England No. 8 Ben Clarke in Paris. At the time he said it was a good lesson for him, but he does not appear to have learned from it.

"He is a bit of a wild boy, said Jenkins, "but spitting is not part of the game and it should not be tolerated." The Wales coach Kevin Bowring said he would make a close study of the match video before deciding whether to ask France to take

"I do not want to be seen to be moaning about anything but unfortunately there were some incidents I would like to see again," said Bowring.

One of them involved the France second-row Olivier him in their line-up Merle, like Dourthe no Pontypridd tomorrow.

Pierre Berbizier after throw-ing a haymaker which left the Wales prop Ricky Evans with a broken leg. he was spoken to by the Canadian referee George Gadjovich earlier in thus game after punching the Wales prop Christian Loader. The France coach Jean-Claude Skrela shared Bowring's disquiet. "I do not like incidents of foul play and my players have to learn how to control themselves." he said.

We gave away far too many

us the match."

Bowring today names his side to face Italy in Rome a week tomorrow, but he will be without the wing leuan Evans and Wednesday's captain Nigel Davies, who both suffered leg injuries during the 40-33 defeat. The captain Jonathan Humphreys should be fit again after sitting out this week's international because of a hamstring strain. Orrell have stepped up their attempt to keep Frano Botics by naming him in their side to face Wasps tomorrow. The League One club claim he is still con-tracted to them, even though he was paraded by Llanelli in front of their supporters before last weekend's victory over Swansea. Llanelli agreed a £75,000 transfer fee with Botica's rugby league side Castleford last week and are

also expected today to name him in their line-up to play

#### Tyson joins pay-per-view triple bill in Las Vegas

Jack Massarik

ON KING makes history of a nominal kind on November 9 when three of his ons" defend their titles in the same Las Vegas ring. A great night for world gov-

erning bodies — sanctioning title" fights earlier that eve-fees all around — is guaran-ning, with Steve Collins topeed at the MGM Grand when Mike Tyson defends the World Boxing Association field, Henry Akinwande retirement announcement (WBO) faces the Russian Alexander Zolkin, and Michael Moorer (IBF) meets South Africa's Frans Botha.

The WBC misses out only because Lennox Lewis, rematched with Oliver McCall for the title recently vacated by Tyson, is not man-aged by King. Just to make sure, though, King last night won purse bids for this fight.

The real problem is that Lewis is signed to another pay-TV network. Speaking of that no doubt breaks new which, British satellite viewers will have to pay £9.95 sion broadcasting or, mor (£14.95 on the day of the fight) relevantly, mass marketing.

to take live pictures from the MGM Grand. This is Sky-TV's first foray into pay-per-view since 660,000 subscribers paid to see Tyson mug Frank Bruno in March. Frank Warren's Nynex

Centre promotion in Manchester (free to subscribers) presents three more "worldping the bill. He gives Nigel Benn a rematch for the WBO super-middleweight title and Benn admits that a firm could be taken as read should he lose

Prince Naseem Hamed de fends the WBO featherweight title against Remigio Molina of Argentina, and Manchester's Ensley Bingham challenges Ronald Wright of the Unites States for the WBO light-middleweight title. Transmission starts at 8.0pm and in theory could continue until 6am, a 10-hour mara-thon of "world-title" action that no doubt breaks new ground in the annals of televi-sion broadcasting or, more

# Scotland stand United learn positive lesson

iners' back

told to re-establish them- | a threat." seives in the first teams at their clubs or risk being

dropped.

Eoin Jess of Coventry, Billy McKinlay of Blackburn and Scot Gemmill of Nottingham Forest were in the squad of 24 named by Craig Brown for the matches with Latvia in Riga next Saturday and Estonia in Tallinn on Wednesday week But those three, all playing in reserve teams or as substitutes, may soon be over-taken by such challengers as Paul Lambert and Christian Dailly, prospering with Bor-ussia Dormund and Derby

County respectively.

Jess, McKinlay and Gemmil will travel to the Baltic as cover because Brown seems likely to have to manage without at least four of the players he has named: Ally McCoist, Stuart McCall and Gordon Durie of Rangers and Tosh McKinlay of Celific. "I'm keeping faith with these players in the mean-time," said the manager, "but they know themselves that

we want and how we work, and may be needed for cover in these matches. But I'll be talking to them when they as-semble on Wednesday and let-ling them know that it is im-dridge have been recalled.

portant that they get into the first team at their clubs.

"Lambert is doing very well EVERAL members of at the highest level with Dortthe Scotland squad mund and, although we named yesterday for the haven't included young Dailly world Cup double-header in this time, he is in the Derby Latvis and Estonia will be first team and could also pose

Two new names in the squad are Brian McAllister, the Wimbledon defender, and Billy Dodds, the Aberdeen striker. Dodds seems the more likely to be involved because the expected with. drawals of Durie and McCoist will leave Brown short of inform attackers.

Dodds, aged 27, has scored 14 goals this season — six in the Premier Division and four apiece in the Uefa Cup and the Coca-Cola Cup - and may brush past more experienced internationals such as Black-burn's Kevin Gallacher and burn's Kevin Gallacher and Hibernian's Darren Jackson.

SQUAM Boyd (Ceftic), Burley (Chelsen), Calderweed (Tottenham), Cellins (Monaco), Dedds (Aberdeen), Daris (Rangers), Gallacher (Blackburn), Geommil (Notingham Forest), Georem (Rangers), Hendry (Blackburn), Jackson (Hibernian), Jess (Coventy), Lambert (Borussia Dortmund), Leighton (Hibernian), B Maklister (Wimbledon), Gillonianian), B Maklister (Wimbledon), Gillonianianiani, Jackson, Timekhisay (Celtic), B. Makterisen), Whyte (Chelsea), Walker (Aberdeen), Whyte (Middlesbrough).

© Roy Keane, who suffered a dead leg in Manchester United's victory over Rapid Vielender (Code of the Code).

they know themselves that can't last.
"They have experience with us and they know what the Republic of Ireland's squad for the World Cup qual-ifying tie with Macedonia on October 9. Jason McAteer,

# by back-up trio to brace them for Turkey

David Lacey says Ferguson's strategy will be crucial to Champions League progress

after their false start in Turin, are up and running in the Champions eague. But the length of the gallop will depend as much on their manager's overall strategy as on the tactical nuances of any one match. At least Alex Ferguson has a

chip in the game. United's 2-0 victory over Rapid Vienna at Old Trafford on Wednesday. combined with the 1-0 win Juventus achieved over Fener-bahce in Istanbul, has given him something to play with.

If Juventus continue to win regularly, moreover, leaving United to feed on the left-overs

then a draw would suit both sides when the European Cup holders visit Old Trafford on November 20. In the meantime United will be meeting Fenerbahce twice, starting in Turkey a fortnight next Wednesday. Four points from a draw and

a win and Ferguson will be sitting pretty. So much depends on the way Ferguson treats his renewal of hostilities with Turkish opposition. Previous United failures - the Champions' Cup in 1993 and the Champions League a year later - have seen them share goalless draws with Galatasaray in Istanbul which a more positive approach might have turned into victories. When United lost 1-0 to Juventus just over a formight

ANCHESTER United, ago Ferguson set out to cramp after their false start | the opposition's style by tucking people into midfield in order to deny the Italian side their usual attacking avenues. As a tactic it was sound in principle. The problem was

that Ferguson's players froze, especially in the first half, and kept giving the ball away. Alen Boksic did the rest.

If United go to Istanbul this time seeking a win, they may well come away with nothing

well come away with nothing worse than a draw. But, if Ferguson again folds his wings and has Eric Cantona ploughing a lonely furrow up front, the initiative may again pass to the opposition EUROPEAN CUP

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE

Group D

preferred to Andy Cole in United's starting line-up. When Cole replaced Solskjaer for the last quarter of an hour the

means United's worst per-former in Turin, had an outstanding first half on Wednes day which epitomised the speed with which Ferguson's younger players are learning about life in Europe. His goal, United's second, was a prime piece of opportunism. Yet Beckham, like Gary Neville, will need to curb his

yellow-card tendencies. Each is on a booking and Mancheslose either player through

# Terry Venables on the wake of Euro 96. **Next Sunday in**

RUROPEAN CUP WINNERS! CUP: Fret-round second legs Nyva Virnyisya 0. Son 4 (agg. 0-5); Varusia Varazdin 2. Lotomoth Moscow 1 (agg. 2-2: Lotomoth Moscow 1, agg. 2-2: Lotomoth Moscow 1, agg. 2-2: Lotomoth Moscow 1, agg. 2-10. Chemion Humenne 1. Agg. Assistant 2 (agg. 1-3); Galetisearay 4. Constructorul Chienau 0 (agg. 5-0); Alix Chien 1, Reykavik 1 (agg. 2-1).

ANDR INSURANCE CONSUNATION: First Distribute Laton 2, Revisit G. T.

is in impropriate OPEM (Dublin): Landing Strengtham OPEM (Dublin): Landing Strengtham OPEM (Bullin): Landing Strengtham OPEM (Bright Strengtham OPEM) (For Coca (Int. 88 M Tunnicitiff; M dublin (Swe); J Payne, 68 G Brand Jin; D D Strang (Swe); J Payne, 68 G Brand Jin; D D Malley (Aus); M Watch; R Wessets (SA); P D Malley (Aus); M Calley; M A Martin (Sp). "D D Robertson; L Westwood; G Swe; R Plansed; E Lange; P McGinter, T Martin (Sp). "D D Robertson; L Westwood; G Swe; R Plansed; E Lange; P McGinter, M Maczenis; R Box. A D Saynt; A Collate P Haugerud (Nori; S Tidning (Den); J M Caulzurse (Sp); A Sesser (Switz); M McLeen; P-IJ Johaneson; (Switz); M McLeen; P-IJ Johaneson; (Switz); G Michaus; B Langer (Ger); S SMIZ); M MCLEBR; M-D JOHANN I: G Nicklaus; B Langer (Ger); S A Cabrera (Arg); J Haeggman

(Swe); R Green (Aus); R Burner, D Cturka; M A Jimenez (Sp); J Heggarty; P Eales; D Hospital (Sp); R Chapman; M Ros; J Coceres (Arg); J Garrido (Sp); A Hunter; S Cage: R Coles: F Cea (Sp); Ta P Laurier, C Mason; E Romero (Arg); C Montomarie; P Broadfrest; P Walton; E Darcy; J Van de Velide (Fr); S Struver (Ger); I Pyman; M Gronberg (Swe); D Chopra (Swe); S Lyle, J Spence; D Höggirs; P Mitchell; C Cevber (Fr); M Sesanconey (Fr), 74 G Chark, M Campbell (NZ); S Richardson; T Lehman (US); S Amee (Trin); Woosnem; M Wills; P Hactblom (Swe); J Pleror (Sp); D J Russeel; F Lindgren (Swe); M Clayton (Aus); T Bjorn (Don); G Emerson; A Oktom; J Mohenny; P Baker; F Howley; R Muntz (Neb); D Carler; A Lebous (Fr); E Campade (It); P Golding, 75 M Lanner (Swe); P Goosen (SA); F Tarmaud (Fr); E Gurner (MZ); D Gillord; R Willson; R Dinsdele; O Rojahn (Nor); M Moutand; M James; "P Lawrie; J Townsand (US); C Sureson (Sp); R Claydon; P Spland (Swe); S Luna (Sp); D Williams; K Erksson (Swe), 76 W Bladon; D Cooper; F Roca (Sp); S Luna (Sp); D Williams; K Erksson (Swe), 76 W Bladon; D Cooper; F Roca (Sp); S Murphy; A Kanleknen (Fri); P Curry, R Rafferty; D McGrane; A Murray; S McAllister; T Planctin (Fr); T P Way, P Fulle; Swe); A Colliston; P Afficial; S Bottomley; T Level (Fr); M Linon; P Nyman (Swe); J Bickernon; D Howell; J Robson (SP); Neddin; S Mendiburu (Fr); V Michaud (SS S Nichlin; S Mendiburu (Fr); V Michaud (SS S Nichlin; S Mendiburu (Fr); V Michaud

LTA AUTUMN SATELLITE (Telford):
Merc Second round (GB/irê unless strad): C Williamon at B Covara 6-2, 6-2; A Richardson bt T Spinis 6-4, 7-6; A Parmer bt J Barnet 6-1, 6-2; A Vystand (Ger) th Gould 8-3, 6-4; F Rently (See) bt F Stauder (Ger) 3-6, 7-6, 6-3; A Keenly (See) bt P Robinson 6-3, 6-4; O Felkarsk (Cz) bt D Draper 6-2, 6-2; J Fex 51 D Bera (Cz) bt D Draper 6-2, 6-2; J Fex 51 D Bera (Fr) 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

SCHIAN CHARPONSEIPS (Palermo. Source rounds J Van Herck (Sel) bt F Manilla (Sp) 7-6. 6-3: H Arazi (Mor) bt H Cump (Arg) 6-4. 6-3: H Arazi (Mor) bt C Aloya 6-2. 6-3. SEMIBO (Sp) bt H Filippini (Uru) 7-5. 2-6. 6-2: F Glarret (Sp) bt F Holigani (B) 4-5. 7-6. 6-3. SWISS (NDOOR CHARPIONSHIPS (Basiel. Second rounds P Samprats (US) bt T Haas (Get) 6-4. 2-5. 6-3: Y Kafelmini T Haas (Get) 6-4. 2-5. 6-3. Y Kafelm Mantilla (Sp) 7-6. 6-3; H Arszi (Mor) bi H Gumy (Angl. 6-4. 5-4; K Alamy, Mor) bi C Moya 6-2, 6-3, 3 Barrillo (Sp) bi M Filippial (Uru) 7-5, 2-6. 6-2; F Glaret (Sp) bi F Morigani (Br) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3. SWISS (INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (Basie), Second round: P Sampras (US)

US OPEN (Orange Co, Calif): Doubles: Mess Second round: C Hant/S Archae (GB) bi K Da Yaw/A Mohammad (US) 15-4, 15-3, Women: First round: J Goode/J (GB) bit K De Yau/A Mohammad (US) 15-4, 15-3, Women: First reseal: J Geode/J Bradberry (GB) bit K Solmundson/A Poon (Gan) 15-0, 15-5.

Mixed setalost First reseal: M Possting/J Wright (GB) bye, C Hosey/M Kirkergeard (GB/Den) bit P Yang Ruiz/S Jimeno (Gua)Perri) 15-1, 15-16, S Archer/J Bradberry (GB) bye. Second researd reseals: M Ponting/J Wright (GB) bit B Ohmyl/A Poon (Can) 15-1, 15-2, C Hawt/M Kirkergeard (GB/Den) bit M Beres/K Solmundson (Can) 15-10, 15-2, C Hawt/M Kirkergeard (GB/Den) bit M Beres/K Solmundson (Can) 15-10, 15-4, S Archer/J Bradberry (GB) bit B Moody/M Cloutier (Can) 15-0, 15-9.

Badminton

# MORLD (SHAMPORSEEP (Bombay, Halls) Country-finalist of Russell (Eng) is D Joshi (Indie) 2391—821; D Cassier (Eng) is 9 Glichrist (Eng) 1432—1430; G Sethi (In-in) in C Swit (Eng) 1496—1165, A Chassel-lys (India) bt A Kumar (India) 1402—1178.

Basketball

Chess

CHESS

2210 OLYMPIAD (Erevan): Rosend Schulgaria K. Ruseia 3k; Georgia 1k; Spain 2k; Armenia 2, US 2; Hungary 2, Netherlands 2; Vietnam 1, England 3 (Short 1, Adams 1, Speelman 0, Sadier 1; Scotland 1k; Canada 2k; Walsea 1, Finland 3; Australia 3, Instand 1, Rosend 10 pairingss Russia v Boonk; Ukreihe v Spain; England v Armenia, Laaderss Russia 27; Spain 20k; Armenia, US, Hungary, England, Booshia, Ukreihe uS, Hungary, England, Booshia, Ukreihe 18; Laaderss Georgia 21k; Ukreihe 19; China 18k; Alasc England 17. Cycling

TOUR OF SPAIR:

4. J-M Jimenez (Spi Banesto 14; 5. R Pistore (II) MG 43; 6. P Chanteur (Fr) Petit Casino; 7. T Rominger (Switz) Mapet; 8. S Faustin (m) AU; 9. M Serrano (Sp) Kelmer 10. A Zuerie (Switz) ONCE all st. Overall standarges 1. Zuelle SPh 30min 188ec; 2. Dufaux at 4.22; 3. Pistore 7. 10; 4. G Toetching (Aut) Potit 6.34; 5. Rominger 8 51, 6. Faustini 9.08; 7. D Rebellin (II) Potit 9.42. ice Hockey

Snooker

**Fixtures** 

The Final Whistle the future for him and for English football, in The Observer

# Sports Guardian

European Cup Winners' Cup, first round, second leg: Liverpool 3, MyPa-47 1 (agg: 4-1)

# Berger king of Anfield

Czech sends brave **Finns** packing

HE floodgates were never forced open but Liverpool but moved smartly forward into the next round of the Cup Winners'
Cup last night. It took more
effort than had been anticipated but the spirited challenge of their game Finnish
opponents took time to be

Success in football is relative and it was with a feeling of genuine achievement that the players of MyPa, emerged from the tie's first leg in the forest lands of southern Fin-land a fortnight earlier. Though they had lost, it was only narrowly and, as their coach Harri Kampman remarked afterwards, to lose to Liverpool by a solitary goal is perhaps more memorable than to defeat opponents of lesser pedigree comfortably.
As expected, MyPa's ambition embraced little beyond

the preservation of the selfrespect with which they began what was always going to be a difficult evening. Kampman, an astute man had said beforehand that to attack would be gross stupidity. His side was to heed the warning. Like all Scandinavian

teams who live with the some-



Finnish finished . . . Patrik Berger, watched by Collymore, scores after 18 minutes to put Liverpool 2-0 up on aggregate

tical sense and, as in the first meeting, their football was neat if almost devoid of

In defensive terms they were fortunate that Robbie Fowler was missing from the Liverpool team sheet for the first time since March 1994, a

other opportunity to remind his countless detractors that he is still part of Anfield's fixtures and fittings, albeit in a decorative sense most of the

As against Chelsea at the weekend, much of Liverpool's

for the most part they seemed to have been assembled rather than conceived.

Liverpool asked most of their more pertinent ques-tions down the flanks. With the Finns strangely reluctant to monitor the progress of

It was dull stuff and the

crowd was growing restless until Liverpool's new golden boy Patrik Berger lifted the evening out of the mundane after 18 minutes. After collecting Moore's hasty and ill-advised pass out of defence through the legs of Viljanen before clipping a left-foot shot inside a post. It was a breathtaking piece of improvisation and the young Czech's fifth goal in three games. Even Collymore was moved to

applaud. The tie was now all but decided and, with the possibility of elimination virtually removed, Liverpool began to

MyPa's counter-attacks became less and less frequent as their stamina began to wane and their concentration to wander. An audience twice the anticipated size finally

business.

gambling

the Mafia.

Friedman on

Mario Puzo

Friday

front

Review

Bruce Jay

and, of

course,

presented Collymore with an | the effectiveness of attacks; | penalty area. They all came to | began to warm to a match of nothing though Bjornebye. no great quality if only be whose goal had divided the cause, with Liverpool enjoy-teams two weeks earlier, did almost squeeze in a shot from ther goals seemed likely. But the game had meandered to its 59th minute before the

MyPa defence was breached a

econd time. A precise and patient passing sequence just ourside the penalty area ended with Barnes threading the ball through to Collymore, who converted stylishly from no later, almost as if to renew the tie's competitive edge. Liverpool carelessly conceded a goal. Mauri Reskitalo sweeping in majestically after Barnes had conceded possession.

Barnes made amends with 13 minutes remaining when he arrived in the penalty area to side foot home a McManaman cross.

Liverpook James McAleer Wright (Scales, 19mr; Sath Matso (Ruddock, 75), Byrnebye MidManam, Barnes, Thomas, Berger (Redknapp, 78),

Guardian Crossword No 20,769

### Cows in Spain are plainly not mad enough



Spanish are getting worked up about mad cows: they can't get enough of them. The Spanish fighting bull gets its ferocious temperament through the female line. Breeders are, however, being accused of selecting docile cows and producing a genera-tion of laid-back torus disinterested in goring. It is a

national scandal. I decided to say nothing about it. In our house, to men tion bullfighting is to risk being trampled to death.

Then I saw that Francisco Gazquez, 48. a bricklayer and former torero, was asked to make a comeback when some stars failed to turn up in Va-lencia. He needed the money (£400), ran on to plant the nderillas (ribboned darts) in the buil's back and was promptly gored to death. I didn't mention it at home

because the same thing would have happened to me. But the other night I was in a Paris hotel and could not sleep. I flicked through the satellite channels and froze with a long-forgotten feeling of excitement and dread. There was a bullfight on Span ish television and a lanky 22-year-old called Jesulin de Ubrique was beginning the

dance of death. The bull was superb, 1200 lb of angry muscle, charging at the smallest twitch of the cape. My stomach churned with distaste, as it had during those long, teenage summers when I trailed around Spain pretending I was Ernest Hemingway. But I watched on, as I had then, and marvelled

What I am about to write may give offence, certainly it will be misunderstood. I may be locked in my shed for a fortnight. But once I fancied myself as an *aficionado* of the art. I saw Dominguin fight in Madrid. I cheered Ordonez in San Sebastian, I booed El Cordobes in Majorca.

Bullfighting is not sport, it is a spectacle that fits perfectly within the Spanish psyche; a ritual about the death for which all life is but a preparation. "Life levels all men, wrote Shaw, "death reveals the eminent."

So it is in the Plaza de Toros

The bull must die, and so too might the torero. How each confronts that prospect is everything to the Spaniard

It is pointless to make com-parisons, useless to become entangled in English feelings about cruelty. A waste of time to mention fox hunting, badger batting and the drowning of kittens. Our morality is not better, it is We eat the flesh of animals

that go shrieking to a degrad-ing death in disgusting abat-toirs. We hunt foxes for fun and call it pest control. We feed herbivores the disease entrails of animals and make mad cows. Oh, and my family adores fois gras. Yet builfighting grows ever

more popular in Spain: more than 33,000 bulls were killed this year and the prime minis ter José Maria Aznar and King Juan Carlos have been following the duels of Emrique Ponce and Jesulin.

The bulls were the subject of my first piece of journalism, aged 15, in our school mage-zine. And in Paris at 1 25am I

For here was a great bull-fighter risking everything. The last 15 minutes of the bull's life were as frightening as anything I have

First Jesulin stood unpro-tected, close to the buil, then he offered the mulcia [the red, triangular piece of cloth] in front of his body, encouraging the built to charge him. Only is the bull to charge him. Only in the last second did he divert the horns past him. I watched him complet

seven passes and each time he should have been gored. Then he did four more, while

The bull seemed hypno-tised. Jesulin brushed the buil's nose, held one of the horns in his fingers, turned his back and walked slowly

The bull remained still.

O NOT ask me to explain or to compre-hend the struggle, let not. Yet somehow, in a flickering moment, I understood the meaning of courage and grace. When Jesulin killed with a single sword-thrust between the horns, I wept for the bull and for myself. For I will never show such bravery, and surely I will not die so

You may wish to protest about this, but don't write to me. Try the EU Agricultural Commissioner. After all. you're are paying for it the Common Agricultural Policy gives £100 to Spanish breedess for every fighting bull they



Set by Custos The Last Don is a return to the three things he knows best: the film

> 1 A pile for burning almost in the middle of a great monument? (7) 5 Vessel having a lot of success in refurbished cafe

9 School's head hasn't the power, being poorly supplied

10 English royal title once translated roughly as Bad Walter (9) 11 Small space to lay down holy man's sweet (10) 12 Engaged in doing gentee exercises with love (2,2) 14 A prison officer, not strict,

showing mental confusion? (1,5,5) 18 Where one may live with partner initially in vice, panicking (2,1,4,4) 21 Set one's face in the

opposite direction (4)

22 Bouncer gives gentle blow before evening's first stampede (7-3)

25 Sugar guzzier back in church er feativity (9) 26 One who finishes fourth or less, mostly, breaking down?

27 Radical chief shows gloger (3-4)28 Smart and trim at sea - also alightly drunk (7)

Down 1 To circulate I'm getting everywhere (6)

2 Late changes in railway property (6) 3 Mother and I collaborate in an important degree (10)

 Travelled by Underground, upset in the beginning (5) 5 Flee rashly with bloke round the East and have a sense of humiliation (4,5)

6 Guided about women unchaste (4)

7 Imprint of publisher, & firm getting cut, working without

& Edible shellfish only asten by sailors (8) 13 Flattered, having a tart with Helen and Teddy (10)

15 Contract a minor aliment that's the arise about getting senile (5,4) 16 Seeker of booty, for

example, tuming up in support (8) 17 Rang about Violet and made

trifling objections (5)
19 Student follows the code, just a little bit (6) 20 Violent tale about origin of

murder (6) 23 Top of cliff abendoned crack visible (5) 24 The crown came unstuck (4)



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